



Two pilots killed as  
trainer aircraft crashes  
near Hyderabad

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Will waive farm loans  
if voted to power in  
Haryana: Kumari Selja

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Second whistleblower  
in Trump-Ukraine  
scandal comes forward

page 14



Shami, Jadeja bowl  
India to big win in  
opening Test against SA

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## NEARBY



Ex-Cong. MLA Prahlad  
Sawhney joins AAP

NEW DELHI  
Four-term Congress MLA from the Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency Prahlad Singh Sawhney on Sunday joined Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Welcoming him in the party, Mr. Kejriwal said there were several "good leaders" who wanted to join the AAP. Mr. Sawhney had won the seat in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Orphanage sealed after  
inmate alleges gangrape

AGRA  
The administration here on Sunday sealed an orphanage and booked its management citing irregularities, days after an inmate alleged that she was raped by three men inside the premises, officials said.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGES 15 & 16

## Dhaka says it's reassured by Modi's briefing on NRC

Won't comment on what politicians say: Gowher Rizvi

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI  
Dhaka will go by the assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and not the public statements by other Indian leaders, on the National Register of Citizens (NRC) issue, said a senior Bangladesh government official. He said the visiting Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and her delegation felt "reassured" after the conversation with Mr. Modi on Saturday.

During the restricted talks, Mr. Modi "went into great depth" to explain that the process should not concern Bangladesh at present, Gowher Rizvi, Ms. Hasina's Adviser on International Affairs, said in an interview to *The Hindu*.

Mr. Modi had reportedly clarified that the NRC was a

long-drawn, multi-phase process, which had been mandated by the Supreme Court, and the government was only "carrying out court rulings."

Asked how Bangladesh officials reconcile that view with public statements made by leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, who indicated at a rally in West Bengal last week that the 1.9 million people declared non-citizens would be

deported and the government planned to make the NRC a national policy, Mr. Rizvi said, "These are things your Ministers tell the people of India, but we don't go by what Ministers say. We will not comment on what Indian politicians say."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12  
HASINA INVITES SONIA TO  
MUJIBUR CENTENARY ▶ PAGE 13  
BEST FRIENDS FOR NOW  
► EDITORIAL



## Faces on the road



Ritual ready: Effigies of the Asura king Ravana, his brother Kumbhakarna and son Meghnad being carried to Dussehra Maidan in Bhopal on Sunday. The Dussehra celebrations will be held on Tuesday. ▶ A.M. FARUQUI

'Shah targeting  
Muslims  
through NRC'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah's call for implementing the National Register of Citizens in India is discriminatory and will give opportunity to forces that are hostile to the nation, Maulana Mahmood Madani, head of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, said.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Centre's steps help to cool off onion prices

But farmers have given a call for agitation from today; one group threatens strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Onion prices in Delhi have dropped below the ₹60 a kg mark in the retail market for the first time in two weeks as the Centre's measures, imposing stock limits and banning exports, took effect, cooling off the prices in most parts of the country.

However, producers have called an agitation from Monday, with one

farmers' group threatening a strike if the ban is not lifted.

Maharashtra, a major producer, is heading to Assembly election this month.

### Retail prices

According to data from the National Horticultural Board, retail prices for the vegetable in the capital dropped to ₹55 a kg over the weekend. This is the first dip since September,

when it rose to ₹65 a kg.

In fact, many Delhi consumers were buying onions for ₹80 a kg in late September, while the price shot up to ₹100 in Hyderabad.

The spike came as a result of floods in several producer States, causing supply disruptions.

This was further exacerbated by hoarding and blackmarketeering.

Central government agencies injected cheaper

onions into the market from a 50,000-tonne buffer stock and encouraged States to do so.

When the prices continued to rise, the Centre imposed stock limits on traders and slapped a ban on exports last Sunday.

The Shetkari Sanghatana has called a strike by onion farmers from Monday, complaining that wholesale prices have crashed since the government's decision

## The only Indian in the largest ever Arctic expedition

Vishnu Nandan, a native of Kerala, will be part of the study of Arctic climate

S.R. PRAVEEN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

For four months from November, Vishnu Nandan will not see sunlight.

He will be aboard the German research vessel Polarstern, anchored on a large sheet of sea ice in the Central Arctic, drifting along with it during the pitch-black Polar winter.

A native of Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram, the 32-year-old polar researcher will be the only Indian among 300 scientists from across the world aboard the multidisciplinary drifting observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC) expedition, which will help the researchers better understand the impact of



Tough phase: Vishnu Nandan will deploy radar sensors on the sea ice surface from Polarstern.

climate change and aid in improved weather projections.

**Year-long study**  
Spearheaded by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAiC, the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, will be

the first to conduct a study of this scale at the North Pole for an entire year. Previous studies have been of shorter periods as the thicker sea ice sheets prevent access in winter.

This research vessel has thus locked itself into a large sea ice sheet, before the winter, and will drift along with it. A suitable sea ice sheet (floe) was identified two days ago.

Dr. Nandan, a remote sensing scientist, will travel in a Russian icebreaker ship from the Norwegian port of Tromsø in November to join the Polarstern on its second leg.

Since his journey is during the Polar winter, he will not see sunlight until his return in March.

"The aim of the expedition will be to parameterise the atmospheric, geophysical, oceanographic and all other possible variables in the Arctic, and use it to more accurately forecast the changes in our weather systems. My role as a radar remote sensing specialist is to deploy radar sensors on the sea ice surface and accurately measure the ice thickness and its variations," Dr. Nandan said over phone from Canada, where he is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Manitoba.

Since his journey is during the Polar winter, he will not see sunlight until his return in March.

## SC Bench to hear Aarey forest case today

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a plea against felling of 2,646 trees at the Aarey colony by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Li-

mited (MMRCL) to make way for a Metro car shed.

On Sunday, the top court received a letter from a delegation of law students against the axing of trees in the Aarey forest.

The top court decided to pursue it as a public interest litigation (PIL) and constituted a "Special Bench" to hear the case.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

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## IN BRIEF



Durga puja at Lotus Boulevard is 'green'

NOIDA  
The Durga Puja at Lotus Boulevard in Noida has kept it 'green' just like previous years. "Right from bringing home the idol to its immersion, it will remain a plastic-free and eco-friendly puja," said Lotus Boulevard Sanskriti Samiti (LBSS) secretary Alok Sadhu. The puja was inaugurated by seven differently abled kids. "There could not be a better way to begin the puja," said LBSS president A. Sajjan.

## 19 held in prostitution racket in Indirapuram

GHAZIABAD  
Nineteen people were arrested during a raid by Indirapuram police from three 'spas' in connection with an alleged prostitution racket run from their premises, said officials on Sunday. A woman was the kingpin of the racket, said Assistant Superintendent of Police. All three centres were using WhatsApp for soliciting customers by sending photographs of the women, he said.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 127	Gurugram 81		
Ghaziabad 135	Faridabad 101		
Greater Noida 136	Noida 183		
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

## DELHI TODAY

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Exhibition: "Like Siesta..." a show of paintings by Jaslene Singh at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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## Provide proper facilities to traffic police personnel: HC

Govt. told to take care of their drinking water needs, sanitation

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court has ordered the government to take all care for providing drinking water, sanitation and regular medical examination and check-up on a monthly basis for the Delhi Traffic Police personnel.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said the Delhi Traffic Police personnel, if any one of them is aggrieved by the action of the government for not providing any facility, can always approach the High Court.

"If there is any violation of such type of rules, regulations or government policy, the police personnel can always approach appropriate authority or Court for redressal of their grievances in accordance with law," the Bench said.



The High Court's observation came closing a public interest petition (PIL) filed by the Legal Forum for Women Empowerment, seeking directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to prepare draft rules and regulations for maintaining proper records of the facilities to be provided to the Delhi Traffic Police with regard to clean drinking water, sanitation and regular medical examination.

"It is expected from the higher administrative officers of the respondents that they shall provide clean drinking water, sanitation and regular medical examination to Delhi Police personnel and, that too, on regular basis, in accordance with law, rules, regulations and government policy," it added.

## Students' group organises referendum over implementation of CBCS

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
Students' group Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) on Sunday organised a "referendum" over the implementation of new choice-based curriculum system (CBCS) in the School of Open Learning.

The vote was over the lack of preparedness in imple-

## HC declines to pass blanket order on installation of PSDs at metro stations

Court says it sees no reason to give any direction as it is a highly technical aspect

## SOIABM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court has declined to pass blanket order for installation of Platform Screen Doors (PSDs) at each station of the Delhi Metro network saying it was a "highly technical aspect" which should be handled by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS).

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said, "PSDs installation system is a highly technical aspect of the matter and we see no reason to give any direction for the installation of the same."

"PSDs shall be installed by the respondents (Delhi Metro) as per the guidelines / conditions / stipulations which will be given by the CMRS," it added.

The High Court's decision came while hearing a public interest petition (PIL) filed by one Hussain Mueen Farroq to install PSDs on all-time metro stations.

## 19 held in prostitution racket in Indirapuram

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## Safety first

Some of the measures taken by the Delhi Metro for passengers' safety

- Installation of PSDs at busy stations
- Installation of preventive steel railings at various stations
- Marking of cautionary yellow line at all the stations
- Regular announcements at platforms and inside trains, regarding the safety procedure to be followed by passengers while boarding
- Installation of CCTVs at the metro stations for monitoring purposes



and de-boarding the metro trains

increases the costs of signalling substantially apart from increasing the maintenance requirements of the metro network and the same creates severe restrictions on Train Operations in case of failure or malfunction of the PSDs or the Metro Train," Delhi Metro said.

The CMRS during inspection of Noida-Greater Noida corridor on December 11, 2018, has also shown concern over the prohibitive costs, maintenance issue and consequence of failure of PSDs and has advised that such prohibitive equipments need not be deployed in the Indian Metro System," it said.

On the issue of retrofitting of PSDs in older stations, Delhi Metro said there were many limitations "as train doors and platform doors must be aligned, which in addition to operational difficulties, results in additional costs due to system upgrades".

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# A switch in time

While several places in Delhi impose a ban on single-use plastic, the transition is hamstrung by a lack of viable alternatives

NIKHIL M BABU  
SHEIKH SAQIB  
NEW DELHI

A university canteen where plastic glasses have given way to paper ones; a majority of customers bringing cloth bags to a local vegetable market; a garden where people are standing outside and eating their 'namkeen' in plastic packets before entering – these are scenes from different parts of Delhi where single-use plastic (SUP) has been banned. There is another thread that connects them all: the demand for viable alternatives.

The *Hindu* visited Jamia Millia Islamia in south Delhi, the vegetable market of Tagore Garden, Dilli Haat at INA and Garden of Five Senses in South Delhi, where the SUP ban has been imposed in varying degrees by different authorities.

Interestingly, almost all of the two dozen people interviewed, from daily wage workers to academics said that plastic should be banned, for reasons varying from the protection of cows to preventing urban flooding.

Despite the demand for alternatives, people and traders were adapting to the changing scenario. Experts said that the government should work on alternatives as the current ones are expensive and not affordable for people from low-income groups.

**Tagore Garden market**  
On an October afternoon, as Rajat Gupta, 50, a vegetable seller,

## CITY MATTERS

handed over onions in a brown paper bag to a customer, the thin bag broke and the onions fell on the ground and rolled off.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on September 23 had declared Tagore Garden's fruit and vegetable market "plastic-free" and the vendors in the market are not allowed to use plastic bags. None of the 15-odd shops in the market were found handing customers' items in plastic bags. Multiple vendors said that about 50% customers were now bringing their own cloth bags, but there are implementation problems.

Showing a white non-woven bag, Gupta said, "There are many problems. I got these bags instead of plastic ones, but the officials are now saying that we cannot use this as they also contain plastic."

He said he charges ₹20 for a cloth bag, but few people buy them. The bags Gupta showed, which is commonly used as an alternative for plastic bags, though resembling cloth bags, is made of polypropylene.

"Consumers mistake it for an alternative to plastic, but it is made from polypropylene. It is non-recyclable and should be banned," said Swati Singh Sambyal, programme manager at Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi.



(Top) Paper and jute bags being sold at an NDMC stall in Kautilya Marg; a vegetable vendor uses a cloth bag after a ban on plastic bag in Tagore Garden vegetable market. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA; R. V. MOORTHY

### Loan a bag

Balbir Singh, 55, a resident of Vishnu Garden, was on his way back after giving his car for servicing when he saw the market and remembered that he had to buy vegetables. But there was one problem: he did not have a cloth bag with him. "When I told the shopkeeper that I don't have a bag, he said that I can take a cloth bag for ₹20 and when I return it, he will give me the money back," Mr. Singh said.

The shopkeeper, Vinod Kumar, 31, from Bihar, was selling two alternatives for plastic bags, a large cloth bag for ₹40 and a

smaller one for ₹15. But if someone shows up without a bag, Kumar loans them the bags for ₹50 and ₹20.

"I sell about 20 of these bags in a day and about 10 of them come back," he said.

The shopkeepers said that the government had distributed free cloth bags for just two days to customers when the ban started and said that such initiatives should continue.

"We had distributed bags sponsored by local businessmen for free, but do not plan to distribute more. We have helped the vendors procure bags at a cheap

rate," said Rajiv Jain, superintending engineer of SDMC.

The market is not free of plastics as some customers are still coming with plastic bags. The SDMC has declared eight such markets as "plastic-free".

### Cloth bags for ₹

Meanwhile, the North Delhi Municipal Council has opened 'Saksham Eco Mart' at Kautilya Marg, where cloth bags are sold for as low as ₹5. "Also, if you give your old clothes at the outlet, our workers will stitch cloth bags for you at ₹2-3," said R.P. Gupta, Director (Education) of North

DMC.

The outlet near Chanakyapuri police station also sells *kulhad* (earthenware) and will soon have alternatives for plastic cutlery at lower than market prices.

### Jamia Millia Islamia

From October 2, the university has banned single-use plastic items such as bottles, cups, glasses, polythene bags, plastic cutlery, straws, and items made from styrofoam among others and imposed a fine of ₹500 on violators. At the canteen, plastic cups have been replaced by paper cups and no one was found using plastic bags. But students were found using plastic bottles and it was available in the canteen too.

Students said they support the ban. Asif Raham, an engineering student at JMI, said, "We don't have much plastic pollution here in Jamia. It is good that the ban has been imposed finally. Plastic contains chemicals that can cause cancer."

But not everyone is happy. Thirty-two-year old Mohammad Faraz Khan, owner of Castro Canteen, said that he immediately threw all his older stock of single-use plastics like straw and glasses when the university administration announced the ban on plastic items.

"We faced the brunt of this decision as we had a huge stock of single-use plastic glasses, spoons and straws. I dumped the whole stock," said Mr. Khan.

"They didn't provide alternatives. We are arranging on our own. We now have to think of alternatives but they will be costlier. This sudden ban will create a new industry for paper and jute, but it will take time to produce huge quantities of glasses and straws. There should have been proper planning. It doesn't work like this, where you wake up and realise that a ban has been imposed on a certain product," he said.

"It takes time to find alternatives and strike new deals," he added.

Another canteen owner, on the condition of anonymity, said that plastic still exists on campus. "The ban is only on bottles

below 200 ml. Water bottles and soft drinks above 200 ml can be used and sold to students and the staff." Also, plastic packaging materials were found lying around in at least three canteens.

### Other places

On October 2, the Delhi government had banned single-use plastic at all three Dilli Haats and the Garden of Five Senses in Saket. At the Dilli Haat and Garden of Five Senses, people were not allowed to carry even chips or biscuits that came in plastic wrappers, but they were not provided paper bags to carry them.

Though at the Dilli Haats there was a cupboard which doubled up as a 'cloak room' in which visitors could leave their plastic water bottles, there was no such facility at the garden – people were allowed to carry water bottles by October 2 afternoon as there were no alternatives.

### Ready for the ban?

"The bans in Delhi are a welcome step, but we are not at the stage for a countrywide ban. We need to do a lot of homework before it," said Ms. Sambyal.

"First, we need to have a clear definition for SUP, things that are found at dump sites, drains and that create problems. And then we have to create a plan to phase them out," she added.

She said that there are currently no viable alternatives for some SUP. "We can clearly get rid of styrofoam and plastic cutlery, but there is no viable alternative for plastic packaging material."

The expert also stressed on the need for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

"Producers should be held responsible for picking up and management of plastic waste. Currently we don't have a proper EPR for plastic. EPR guidelines are needed."

Meanwhile, the Delhi government is in the process of notifying bylaws under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. These entail fines for not disposing of SUP properly, but there's no ban on them, officials said.

## Foreign national arrested + for smuggling drugs

She carried reward of ₹50,000: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old foreign national, who was absconding for the past 10 months in connection with a case of drug trafficking, has been arrested, the police said on Sunday.

Mariam alias Mweke from Kenya was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on her arrest in a case of seizure of 7.5 kg heroin from three African drug traffickers, they said.

**Jumped bail**  
After jumping the bail in the case, she had made her hideout in Mumbai and again indulged in drug trafficking with the help of her other associates. Mariam was arrested from Delhi along with her associates Ekene and Martin on June 25, they said.

A team was sent to Mumbai after the police found that Mariam was living in Nagnipada in Palghar district, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) P. S. Kushwah.

The accused disclosed that after jumping bail, she was hiding in an unknown



Mariam alias Mweke.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

place and then shifted to Mumbai about two months ago where she took consignments from Delhi-based African drug traffickers, the officer said.

She came to India in 2016 on a tourist visa for three months and stayed back. She did odd jobs with the help of her friends from Africa, the officer added.

Later, she came into contact with a Kenyan national – Obum Favor – who was involved in heroin smuggling. Obum asked her to smuggle heroin from Delhi to Punjab, the DCP said.

She developed her own drug syndicate and started smuggling heroin in Delhi NCR, Haryana, Mumbai and Punjab, the police added.

## Men thrash hospital guard for not letting them drink

Accused hit him with iron rod; one held, two on the run

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A 56-year-old security guard at Madan Mohan Malaviya Hospital in south Delhi was thrashed by three persons for asking them not to consume liquor in an ambulance parking area on Saturday, the police said on Sunday.

Dillipat said he was on night duty when a senior doctor told him that three persons were consuming liquor inside the premises at 12.45 a.m. on Saturday.

**Inside premises**  
"I along with two other security guards – Ramanan Nayak and Roshan Kumar – went to the parking area and saw three-four men consuming liquor in an autorickshaw, which was parked next to an ambulance. I asked them to vacate the area as such activities were not allowed inside hospital premises," said the victim.

He added that they started abusing us, and they started abusing us, he said.

Another accused got an iron rod and hit Dillipat on the head following which he collapsed on the spot, an officer said.

### Sticks and punches

Next, the accused thrashed all three guards with sticks and punched them.

Meanwhile, someone informed the police and a PCR reached the spot. One accused was nabbed while the two others managed to flee.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said the accused, Waheed from Swami Nagar, was previously involved in a criminal case.

"An FIR has been registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 308 [attempt to commit culpable homicide] and 323 [punishment for voluntarily causing hurt] at Malviya Nagar police station. The other two accused have been identified and will be arrested soon," said Mr. Thakur.

**Memory loss**  
"I have received eight stiches on the head. The medical reports, including the CT scan report, is awaited. Doctors said I might lose my memory due to the impact of head injury. Ramananad has received internal injuries on the chest," said the victim.

He added that he has been doing the job for the past several years and lives in Govindpuri.

### Accused hit him with iron rod; one held, two on the run

Accused also robbed him of money

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old Mother Dairy franchise owner was robbed after being shot at allegedly by three-bike borne men in north-east Delhi's Karawal Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

Nahar Singh, who sustained injuries in his ears, is said to be out of danger, they said.

On Saturday night, at 9.30 p.m., when Singh was inside the booth, three men on motorcycle arrived at the counter and enquired about the cost of paneer. Later, the accused tried to bargain

saying they wanted to buy it for wedding purpose. They told the booth operator that they wanted to check a sample of the product and tried to enter the booth, an officer said.

When he resisted, one of them took out a pistol and pointed towards him, he said, adding that the accused then shot at Singh. Before fleeing the spot, they robbed ₹15,000-₹20,000 from him, the officer added.

A case has been registered and efforts are on to nab the accused, said DCP (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya.

## Man, sons held for killing teenager

Accused had monetary dispute with the victim's father

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A man and his two sons were arrested for allegedly killing a 17-year-old boy and injuring his father in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden after a scuffle broke out between them over a monetary dispute, the police said on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Shiv Charan and his sons – Sushil and Amit, they said. On Saturday evening, the accused men attacked the boy and his 52-year-old father Dhruv Chand Pathak with batons and later used a gas cylinder to thrash them. After this, the accused fled the spot.

A case was registered fol-

owing which the trio was nabbed. According to the police, they received two calls at 7 p.m. about the incident. The first caller said "one person stabbed 3-4 persons with sword" while the second caller said "someone killed his daughter".

On reaching the spot, the police took injured persons to a nearby hospital and later shifted them to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said, adding that the boy died during treatment.

"Shiv had purchased materials from my shop worth ₹3 lakh in September. Since he could not give the entire amount, I asked him to pay

## Mother Dairy franchise owner shot at; manhunt on

Accused also robbed him of money

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

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A case has been registered and efforts are on to nab the accused, said DCP (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya.

## Senior citizen found dead in Amar Colony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A retired bank manager was found dead in Amar Colony here, the police said on Sunday. They recovered a note where he apologised to his family for taking the extreme step as he was upset.

**Suicide prevention helpline:** Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.

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Man hit by  
DTC bus diesSTAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A man succumbed to injuries during treatment at DDU hospital where he was admitted after a DTC bus rammed several vehicles in Hari Nagar on Saturday night, the police said.

The bus driver alleged that the breaks of the vehicle had failed due to which he lost control. Preliminary investigations revealed that the driver had jumped red light after which the vehicle hit two motorists and a scooterist, coming from the opposite side.

A mechanical inspection of the bus will be carried out to verify the claims of the driver. According to the police, the deceased, Sumit, was on his way home when the incident took place.

"A medical check-up of the accused was conducted and he tested negative for alcohol," said a police officer.

On Saturday night, four people sustained injuries after the DTC bus hit them in west Delhi's Hari Nagar, the police said. The incident occurred at 10 p.m. on Saturday. A large crowd had gathered at the scene and nabbed the driver, the police added.

## An oasis of knowledge within Tihar prison walls

From computer applications to English, inmates are learning and imparting new skills to each other at an institute opened recently on jail premises

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

In a small classroom with 10 desktop computers, a group of prisoners stands around Rahul Chaudhary as he explains the use of fonts while formating a Microsoft Word document.

Chaudhary (29) was sent to the prison two-and-a-half years ago on the charge of rape on pretext of marriage and is undergoing trial. A graduate in computer application, he teaches nearly 70 inmates at Oasis Centre for Learning inside Central Jail number 4 in Tihar.

"I started teaching the inmates how to use a computer a few months after I came here. Now things have become much more organised. I teach three batches and each class is an hour-and-a-half long. For me, it's something meaningful I am doing with my life inside prison," he said as his second batch of "students" prepared for the class.

## Courses by IGNOU, NIOS

The Oasis Centre for Learning is located opposite ward number 6, amid lush green trees. The institute has been



A group of prisoners learning from a powerpoint presentation inside (right) Oasis Centre for Learning inside Central Jail number 4 in Tihar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

running for a few months but was formally inaugurated on September 25 with several courses being run by Indira Gandhi National Open University and National Institute of Open School.

Both the students and the teachers here are inmates, said jail Superintendent Rajesh Chauhan. "At the institute, inmates are encouraged to appear for Class X and XII examinations, various certificates, graduation and post-graduation courses. At present, we have 752 students enrolled at the institute.

There are also smart classrooms for them," he said.

For the inmates, attending classes at the institute is a way to pass their time inside the prison and more importantly, learn something which they could not when they were "free".

Roop Singh, a 25-year-old undertrial who's accused of rape, is among the most active students in the computer class and also a "fast learner". He has been attending the class for the last two months. "Kuch knowledge milegi... bahar jaake hamare



were seen sitting on chairs in front of computer screens. A white board on the wall announced their specialisation - CorelDRAW, photoshop and PageMaker.

Among those inside the classroom were two inmates who made headlines this year. Ruslan Petrov Metodiev, a Bulgarian national who was arrested for allegedly skimming and cloning cash cards across Europe and other countries and was held for targeting ATMs in posh Khan Market, was trying his hands at an image-editing software.

"I want to learn photoshop because back home [in Bulgaria] I sell furniture online and it would help me," he said in a broken English.

The second notorious inmate was Ashu Pal, a murder accused who allegedly chopped his wife's body into pieces and dumped them into a septic tank in Prem Nagar on September 21. He has allegedly confessed to the crime.

Interestingly, Ashu Pal is not a student but a teacher who excels in hardware assembly and installation.

In a meek voice, he said he has 10 years of experience in

assembling hardware, including computer and its parts, and that's the reason he decided to teach the same inside the prison. "For the first two-three days, I didn't know what to do but I was counselled and I decided to teach. It feels good."

## Crave for English

On the first floor, Avinash (40), an undertrial rape accused who has been lodged in the jail for over six months, was teaching motor binding to another inmate.

The class next door is possibly the most popular among all. The room was full of students attentively jotting down points in notebooks kept on their laps.

"What do you see in front of you? A, E, I, O, U. These are vowels..." said 34-year-old Rahmatullah, an Afghan national convicted under the NDPS Act two years ago.

Addressing a class of over 30 inmates eager to learn English, he went on to teach noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb and other parts of speech through a power point presentation he had created. It was a smart classroom.

Sharing his story, Rahmatullah said when he was first produced before a judge five years ago, he did not know either English or Hindi. "I still can't communicate in Hindi properly. When I came to Tihar, I got to know that one Ravinder sir taught English to a couple of inmates and I joined them. Two years ago, I recorded my statement in front of the same judge in English and he was shocked," he smiled and the inmates clapped.

As Rahmatullah randomly picked inmates and asked them questions, some of them answered with enthusiasm. One of them was Ashok (29), a bespectacled man wearing a checked shirt and beige trousers who was arrested on murder charge in 2014. He was a Class V dropout when he came to the jail and now, he is preparing for Class XII examination next session.

Talking about the motivation to learn inside jail, Ashok said, "In the barracks, there are all sorts of people... negative ones too. But only those who really want to learn and do something with their lives come to the class to study."

Gangster  
accuses jail  
staff of biasPRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Gangster Sunil Rathi, alleged killer of don Munna Bajrang, was shifted to a separate high-security ward in Tihar jail after he said the behaviour of the prison staff at his previous cell was "biased, unsupportive and dangerous", a Delhi court was told.

The submission was made by Tihar jail authorities in a compliance report before Additional Sessions Judge Kamini Lau on whose direction Rathi was shifted.

**To a high-security ward** In its status report, authorities informed the court that Rathi was moved from the high-security jail number 5 to high-security jail number 3. They said Rathi has been allowed necessary bedding arrangements for his medical ailment from the Jail Welfare Canteen.

**Medical treatment** He is being provided regular medical treatment by a neurologist for his slip disc problem, they said in the report. They also said the name of his brother was added to the visitors' list in prison after the required verification as the accused had claimed that his family members were not being allowed to meet him due to the authorities' biased and unfavourable behaviour towards him.

Rathi, along with other accused, had allegedly killed Radhey Shyam, then Superintending Engineer of the Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh, on June 18, 2006. Shyam was looking after the ₹240-crore Upper Ganga Link Canal project of the U.P. government, under which Ganga and Yamuna rivers were to be linked to solve the long-standing irrigation and drinking water problems of the State.

He was allegedly killed because of a clash with another engineer over the project.

## Former Congress MLA joins AAP

CM welcomes Prahpal Sawhney, requests others to join party

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Four-term Congress MLA from Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency Prahpal Singh Sawhney on Sunday joined Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Welcoming him to the party, Mr. Kejriwal said ahead of the elections, there were several "good leaders" who wanted to join AAP.



(From left) Sanjay Singh, Prahpal Singh Sawhney and Arvind Kejriwal in party headquarters on Sunday.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

People in my locality are so happy about the kind of developmental work that Delhi government has done in the fields of education, health, power, transport, etc, that people themselves come forward and say this time their vote is for Mr. Kejriwal. The provision of cheap water and electricity has impressed people in my area," Mr. Sawhney added.

Mr. Sawhney had lost to Alka Lamba in 2015 from the Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency.

Before that, he had won the seat in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013.

Ms. Lamba had recently quit the AAP.

"You do not need to tell the people of Delhi to vote for AAP. They will tell you

on their own that they will vote for AAP in the upcoming elections. They are very happy that Mr. Kejriwal delivered on his promise that electricity bills will be half and water will be free," Mr. Sawhney added.

Mr. Sawhney had lost to Alka Lamba in 2015 from the Chandni Chowk Assembly constituency.

Before that, he had won the seat in 1998, 2003, 2008 and 2013.

Ms. Lamba had recently quit the AAP.

"You do not need to tell the people of Delhi to vote for AAP. They will tell you

## Clean drive



A clear sky in the city after being on the radar of pollution watchdogs. ■ V. V. KRISHNAN

## NRC is important, AAP's strategy revolves around lies: Javadekar

Confident of winning upcoming State polls, he says BJP has not declared any chief ministerial face yet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Attacking Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his remarks on the National Register of Citizens, BJP leader Prakash Javadekar said the people understand that the exercise is very important as no country can allow illegal infiltrators to stay and asserted that his party will repeat the success of Lok Sabha polls in the upcoming Delhi Assembly poll.

Last month, Mr. Kejriwal had said if the NRC is implemented in Delhi, it is the BJP city unit president Manoj Tiwari who will have to leave the city first. This drew sharp reaction from the BJP.

"Only Mr. Kejriwal has confusion over NRC. This is the understanding of the Delhi Chief Minister. But it is not what people understand, they know that no country allows illegal infiltrators to stay. Therefore, the NRC is very much im-

portant," Mr. Javadekar said, adding Union Home Minister Amit Shah has already made it clear that the Citizenship Amendment Bill will be passed.

The Bill seeks to amend a 1955 law to grant citizenship in May 2014 in all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the BJP could not repeat it in the Assembly polls and got just three seats out of 70. This time BJP will be repeating its 2019 Lok Sabha polls performance in the State assembly elections, the Union Minister said.

It had been passed by the previous Lok Sabha but was not tabled in Rajya Sabha. The Bill lapsed after the term of the previous Lok Sabha ended in May but was not introduced in the Budget Session in July.

Mr. Javadekar alleged the

AAP's strategy revolves around lies and taking credit for others' work, and said the BJP will get a "huge mandate" in Delhi Assembly elections due next year.

After its resounding victory in May 2014 in all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, the BJP could not repeat it in the Assembly polls and got just three seats out of 70. This time BJP will be repeating its 2019 Lok Sabha polls performance in the State assembly elections, the Union Minister said.

**Related to poll strategy**

Asked whether the BJP will name its chief ministerial candidate in Delhi, he said the party has not declared any face yet and that it is a

matter related to poll strategy.

"It's State-specific. We have announced in Maharashtra and Haryana. So, somewhere we do not announce, somewhere we do not announce. It is not because they [Devendra Fadnavis and M.L. Khattar] are incumbent but because it is strategy. Strategy should not be confused with policy," he added.

## Party gearing up

Responding to a question on whether there will be any change in the Delhi unit leadership before the polls, Mr. Javadekar said the focus of the party is to win the Assembly election and it is preparing for it.

Sd/-

Sr. Superintendent of Police, Jammu

DIP/J-7245

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THE HINDU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Three men have been arrested from west Delhi's Mayapuri for their involvement in over 100 cases of snatching in the city, the police said on Sunday.

Raja, Ashu and Sheikh Nasir, all from Jahangirpuri, used to snatch mobile phones and then sell them, they said. Two stolen motorcycles, scooters and 17 mobile phones were recovered from them, the police said.

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Hiring of one No. non AC multiutility 4 wheeler motor vehicle Tata Safari / Xylo/ Innova/ Tavera or similar make vehicle for supervision of ADEN/HQ/II JHS for one year.	JHS-Engg-HQ-2019-148	333447.48	6700.00	1050.00
Jhansi/East- Improvement to under ground drainage system at Jhansi station.	JHS-Engg-HQ-2019-149	2770639.12	55400.00	3150.00

Date of closing Tender: 28.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Date of completion / period from issue acceptance letter: For Sr.No.1- 365 Days and For Sr.No.2- 04 Month. \* Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs on 28.10.2019. For full details and submission of bid, please see the Indian Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 1434/19 FA

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"Keeping in view the snatching incidents in the area, a special anti-snatching picket was installed near Mayapuri depot on Saturday, which checked vehicles coming from Mayapuri Chowk," said DCP (West) Deepak Purohit. During one such checking, the accused came at the picket on a scooter. When the staff asked them to stop, they took U-turn and tried to escape but were nabbed after a brief chase, the officer said.

DELHI Timings	
MONDAY, OCT. 7	
RISE 06:17 SET 18:00	
RISE 14:29 SET 00:19	
TUESDAY, OCT. 8	
RISE 06:17 SET 18:00	
RISE 15:11 SET 01:13	
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9	
RISE 06:18 SET 17:59	
RISE 15:49 SET 02:07	

## Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 33 21

Safdarjung 33 21

Palam 32 21

Delhi Pilm Today

33°C The sky conditions will

be cloudy. A hazy and

pleasant morning is likely.

Delhi Pilm Tomorrow

33°C Dry weather with

pleasant and hazy morning is

likely. Day will be warm.

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## Activist dies in police custody in Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BARMER

A transparency activist arrested along with two members of his extended family allegedly after a fight among them over their ancestral property died on Sunday in police custody at Balotra near here, said an officer.

Following the custodial death of 42-year-old activist Jagdish Goliyar, all personnel of the Pachpadra police station have been transferred to the district police lines, said Barmer SP Sharad Chaudhary.

The custodial death would be probed by a judicial magistrate, Mr. Chaudhary said.

To ascertain the exact cause of the death, a medical board would be conducting his autopsy on Monday under the supervision of a judicial magistrate, he added.

Balotra Deputy Superintendent of Police Subhash Chandra said the activist is suspected to have died of some internal injuries that he suffered in the fight with his family members.

Goliyar worked as a typist at district court besides doubling up as a transparency activist.

## Cong., Akalis at odds over Punjab festivities

Parties trade charges over celebration of Nanak's birthday

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

While preparations for celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev are apace, the ruling Congress is at loggerheads with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in Punjab over the holding of a key event at Sultanpur Lodhi.



Sukhbir Singh Badal accuses the Congress of trying to create a new history.

In the run-up to the Assembly-by-polls in Punjab, slated for October 21, both parties are slugging it out to woo the Panthic (Sikh) voters against the backdrop of the celebrations. By-polls are to be held for four Assembly constituencies in the State.

The Congress and the SAD have been trading charges with each other over the politicised preparations. While the SAD has accused the Congress-led State

government of "trying to create a new history" by holding a separate programme from that being organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) at Sultanpur Lodhi, the Congress has alleged that "the Badal family" was trying to create hurdles and attempting to exploit the occasion for petty political gains.

Sukhbir Singh Badal accuses the Congress of trying to create a new history.

government of "trying to create a new history" by holding a separate programme from that being organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) at Sultanpur Lodhi, the Congress has alleged that "the Badal family" was trying to create hurdles and attempting to exploit the occasion for petty political gains.

## Civic body chief booked for abusing sweeper

Cow carcass dragged with tractor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOTA

The municipality chairman of Sangod in Rajasthan's Kota district has been booked for allegedly abusing and beating up a sweeper, who was carting away a cow's carcass by dragging it with a tractor-trailer, police said on Sunday.

The municipality chairman, Devkinandan Rathore, was booked under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act on Saturday for beating up and abusing contractual sweeper Rajkumar Valmiki, said Station House Officer (SHO) Dhanraj Meena.

**Statements recorded**  
Police have launched an investigation into the matter and recorded the statements of Mr. Valmiki and the eyewitnesses, the SHO said, adding that no arrest had been made so far.

**Video of incident**  
A video of the incident was uploaded on social media but police later removed it and blocked the video's source, the SHO said.

He said the matter had been handed over to Deputy Superintendent of Police Rameshwar Parihar for further investigation.

Apparently, a cow vigilante had informed Mr. Rathore about Mr. Valmiki taking the cow's carcass through the market.

## Akhilesh Yadav confident of returning to power in 2022

People have seen through BJP's game of false promises

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday that he is confident of forming the government in the State in 2022.

"The SP family has grown and we will surely form the government in the State in 2022," Mr. Yadav said and added that more leaders from other parties were keen to join the SP.

**'Anarchy all over'**  
"People have seen through the BJP's game of making false promises. The BJP has been fooling people. There is anarchy all over. The economy is going lower and the youth are unemployed," he said. Assembly polls in U.P. are due in 2022.

Mr. Yadav also criticised

## Fear of dengue outbreak in Patna

Over 600 patients tested positive in last four days, says official data

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
PATNA

Fear of a dengue outbreak is looming large in waterlogged Patna with 640 patients being tested positive, mostly in the last four days, according to official data.

Unofficially, however, the number of dengue patients may be as high as 800.

According to health officials, dengue is spreading fast in the waterlogged residential localities in Patna.

What worries health officials is the stagnant, stinking water that still remains a problem in the posh residential localities of Rajendra Nagar, Patliputra and Gola Road following many days of heavy rain. Many areas, however, are now free of waterlogging.

**Outbreak ruled out**  
Bihar Health Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar has, however, ruled out a dengue outbreak in the State capital.

"There is no indication of an outbreak of a vector



A ward in Patna Medical College has been converted for dengue patients. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

borne disease in Patna as per the views of experts", he said, admitting, however, that chances are high of an epidemic.

According to him, 24 teams are spraying 'Temefos' in Patna to kill mosquitoes.

Till now, 900 cases of dengue have been reported from across the State, including 640 cases in Patna alone.

The government-run Patna Medical College and Hospital's Deputy Superintendent Ranjit Kumar Jaimiar

victims confined in their homes are reportedly suffering from mild to high fever.

Health officials said that waterlogging helps vector-borne diseases increase due to fast mosquito breeding.

**Chikungunya, diarrhoea**  
What is disturbing is not only the spread of dengue in waterlogged areas, but also reports of other illnesses like chikungunya and diarrhoea.

Patna District Magistrate Kumar Ravi said there is danger of outbreak of epidemics due to filth, dumped garbage and stagnant water in many areas.

According to a senior health department official, measures are being taken to prevent the outbreak of diseases and teams of doctors will soon visit affected areas to provide medical treatment wherever required.

Till date, waterlogging in Patna and floods across the State have killed 73 people and over 20 lakh people have been affected.

## Four dead as SUV falls into gorge in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

Four persons were killed and another was injured on Sunday after the SUV they were travelling in fell into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district, police said.

The vehicle fell into a 600-metre gorge at Tarella in Bhamour on Dakog-Tunda road, they said.

Rajinder Kumar (30), Ramesh Kumar (34), Sanjeev

Kumar (30) and Surinder Kumar (34) of Chamba district died on the spot, police said, adding the driver Bittu (27) has been admitted to district hospital in Chamba.

**CM condoles deaths**  
Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has condoled the deaths.

Prima facie, the accident occurred due to rash and negligent driving, police said.



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INTERVIEW | RAJU SHETTI

# 'I stand with farmers even today; sugar barons have now shifted to BJP'

People are watching how BJP is poaching leaders from other parties ... the young generation, does not like this ... they see it as a betrayal, says the SSS leader

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
SHIROL (KOLHAPUR)

After losing the Lok Sabha election, farmer leader and Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatana leader Raju Shetti is now geared up to take on the BJP and Shiv Sena government by allying with Congress and Nationalist Congress party (NCP). Even though he isn't contesting, he wants to make sure his candidates win. In an interview with The Hindu in Abdul Lat village of Shirol tehsil in Kolhapur while campaigning, Mr. Shetti accepts that he is upset with opposition front, claims young and fresh faces in opposition are the future and how floods in the region may impact sugar industry next year.

You seem to be very upset with Congress and NCP despite being in an alliance. What is the reason? Why shouldn't I? We formed an alliance and seat distribution took place. But look at what they have done. Nandurbar was given to us and Congress has given AB form to its candidate. Similarly in

Buldhana's Khamgaon. In Shirol, the NCP candidate has rebelled against mine. None of the Congress-NCP workers and leaders are joining us in the campaign. When I met Sharad Pawar and other Congress leaders yesterday, I strongly registered my protest over such petty tactics. Our workers are honestly supporting them in other seats. I hope they will withdraw their candidature on Monday.

Do you feel joining the opposition front was a mistake?

No. I agree that there are flaws in both these parties, but look at whom are we fighting against. The Bharatiya Janata Party is destroying the basic foundation of this nation, its farmers and its value system. We are together because we firmly believe in secular and constitutional values and want to save them. We are with the opposition front for this sole reason. As far as problems within the opposition front are considered, do you think ruling coalition is working fine? BJP did not even allow a single

candidate of the allies to contest on a different election symbol. They are all forced to fight on Lotus symbol. We have not lost our independent identity, like the smaller allies in ruling coalition.

But you lost the Lok Sabha election after joining them? Yes, I paid the price. There are other reasons for my defeat. There was a bit of overconfidence. We have learned since then. Assembly will not be easy, but I am sure that we will make a comeback.

When Congress-NCP was in power, you aggressively attacked these parties for being pro-sugar factory owners. Now you are accused of going soft on them. What led to this change?

This is how BJP wants to defame me. Take Kolhapur for example. There are 23 sugar factories in this district. Except for two, all other owners have either joined the BJP or established close ties with BJP leaders. Whom am I supposed to target now? I am with sugarcane farmers and I continue to voice their demands against the sugar fac-

tories. But the sugar barons have switched to the BJP. What's the point in slamming Congress now? I have to talk against the BJP.

Does that mean you have amended your differences with Sharad Pawar?

I never had personal animosity against Sharad Pawar. My problem was the way he handled co-operative sector, especially the sugar lobby. He may have his own political calculation of controlling sugar factory means controlling politics of the region. But I always pointed out loopholes in that model. Now, when the exodus in NCP happened and people joined the BJP, the whole party collapsed in those areas. I was proven right. That's it. I had problem with his way of doing politics.

With established leaders joining the BJP in hordes, do you see an opportunity for new, young leadership in Maharashtra? Yes of course. It is extremely good that those old, traditional politicians are quitting the opposition to

I accept that as an opposition we are lacking. We are failing to give a counter-narrative to government's propaganda and credible alternative

make way for the young leadership. There will be tough days for some time, but let me tell you one thing. The people are watching how BJP is poaching leaders from other parties. They, especially the young generation, does not like this. The young voters don't like betrayal and these leaders joining the BJP is seen as betrayal in rural areas.

How

important will be the issue of recent floods in western Maharashtra in this election?

My entire campaign is revolving around this issue. The administration totally failed to warn farmers about the calamity and when it happened, it again failed in disaster management. The warning of possible heavy rains was issued seven days earlier and still no preventive measures such as making dams half-empty, or warning Almatty in Karnataka were taken. The relief measures were nothing but disaster.

Not a single elected representative could live up to the expectations. There's been no talk of monetary help to farmers and those who lost their

houses. The loan waiver scheme is flopped and since loans are not waived off banks are not ready to give more loans. There has to be a committee of elected representatives of Maharashtra and Karnataka along with government officials to avoid such future incidents.

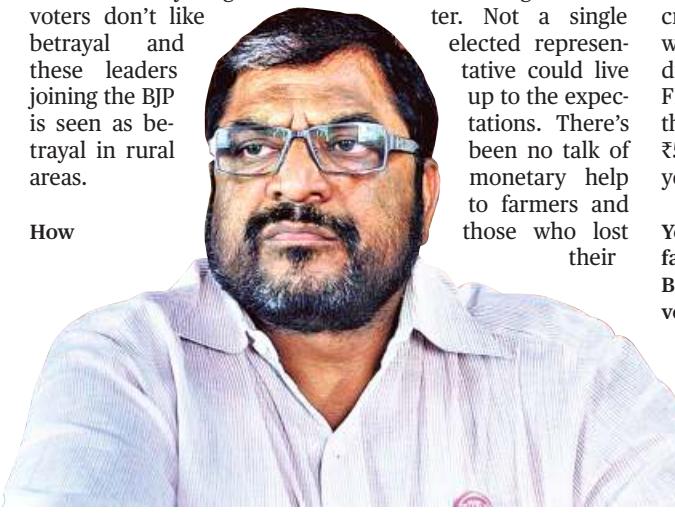
Will floods impact sugarcane production next year as well? May be not the production, but surely the fair and remunerative price for it. The floods have affected sugarcane production. The living crop may not yield enough weight. Sugar production will drop. It will affect next year's FRP. There is a possibility that FRP may drop by around ₹500-550 per tonne next year.

You have been leading farmer struggles nationally. But farmers seem to be voting for the BJP despite all your allegations of the government being anti-farmers. Why is it so?

Maharashtra has seen over 16,000 farmers suicides. These

are not my numbers. The MSP issue is not my creation. Poor yield, government apathy are not my creations. These are real issues and farmers are really affected by it. But whenever elections come, this government cleverly rakes up issues of patriotism, nationalist, Pakistan or terrorism and successfully diverts the attention. Yes, I accept that as an opposition we are lacking. We are failing to give a counter-narrative to government's propaganda and credible alternative. We need to work on that.

You challenged Chandrakant Patil [State BJP president] for electoral fight and instead of accepting, he shifted to Pune. What's your message to him? The most powerful BJP minister in State cabinet could not nurture a single Assembly seat out of 10 in Kolhapur district. This speaks volumes about himself and his failure as the guardian minister of this district. He ran away and chose safest of seats for himself. He could have lost. This is how BJP worked in last five years. It is all talk, nothing on ground.



## PM to address first public meeting in Satara on Oct. 17

Will also hold another rally in Pune

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) goes all out to win the October 21 Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address his first rally towards the end of the campaigning in Satara, western Maharashtra, on October 17.

The Prime Minister, who will address nine public meetings across the State, will also hold another one in Pune city the same day, informed BJP State unit chief Chandrakant Patil, himself a candidate from the city's Kothrud Assembly segment.

The party's other 'star campaigner', Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is slated to hold 17 public meetings.

"The Prime Minister will be holding nine public meetings in all with two of these in western Maharashtra. Of these, the Satara rally which will take place around noon on October 17 while the Pune address is scheduled for the same evening. Mr. Shah's schedule is being finalised," informed Mr. Patil, adding that the Union Home Minister's first meeting is likely to be in Sangli district on October 10.

Mr. Modi's public meetings will be held for two crucial constituencies where the prestige of both BJP candidates are at stake - the Satara Lok Sabha by-election where royalist Udayanraje Bhosale is the candidate, and the Kothrud Assembly seat from where Mr. Patil is



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

contesting.

Mr. Bhosale, a former three-time Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP who recently switched alliances to join the BJP, is pitted against the NCP's Shrinivas Patil, the ex-Governor of Sikkim.

Mr. Modi's Pune rally will be especially vital for the fortunes of Mr. Patil, who is contesting his first Assembly election and faces a formidable challenge in Kothrud in the form of voter resentment and a disgruntled Shiv Sena leadership.

"Earlier, there was a problem over settling on the dates for the Prime Minister's rally...we thought of October 10, but it was thought too early. Then, we thought of October 13 and now it has been fixed for October 17," Mr. Patil said, adding that the party would start looking for a suitable place to hold these public meetings.

In stark contrast, the be-

leaguered Congress has yet to get its act together with the leadership still in the dark about Rahul Gandhi's proposed campaign programme for the Congress' candidates.

**MNS looking for venue**  
Meanwhile, with Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) taking the plunge in electoral politics, the MNS chief is not getting a venue in Pune ahead of its first rally scheduled on October 9.

An irate Ajay Shinde, who is the MNS' Pune city chief, claimed that educational institutes had refused the party a place for Mr. Thackeray's first rally in the city's Kasba Peth area.

"We have been trying to secure a ground since October 1 and have approached the district authorities... However, no educational institution is willing to give us a place," said Mr. Shinde.

He further hit out at the ruling BJP-Sena government's alleged 'dictatorship' and accused them of attempting to stifle democracy by denying political space for opposition parties.

"We will hold our rally at Alka Chowk on October 9 come what may and the [BJP-Sena] government will then be responsible for any law and order situation that may arise," warned Mr. Shinde.

Mr. Thackeray, whose party did not contest the recent Lok Sabha elections, had nevertheless managed to draw large crowds at his rallies.

In stark contrast, the be-

leaguered Congress has yet to get its act together with the leadership still in the dark about Rahul Gandhi's proposed campaign programme for the Congress' candidates.

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"We have been trying to

### Colours of the season



**In demand:** An overview of the flower market in Pune which is doing brisk business ahead of Dussehra festival. ■ MANDAR TANNU

## NCP MP complains of poor quality food on AI flight

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
PUNE

Rajya Sabha MP Vandana Chavan of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Sunday claimed she was served poor quality food on an Air India flight from Pune to Delhi recently.

An Air India spokesperson said on Sunday that the matter was being looked into.

In a series of tweets, Ms. Chavan said the omelette she had ordered had small pieces of egg shells, while

the potatoes seemed decayed and the beans uncooked.

"Travelled Pun-Del on early morning @airindia flight few days back. Had ordered an omelette for breakfast. When finished with 3-4 bites hit upon shells of the egg in the omelette," she said on Twitter.

Air India spokesperson Dhananjay Kumar said the matter has been brought to the notice of the management and it is being looked into.

## Kasba Peth: civic body stalwarts will slug it out in Old Pune

Redevelopment of crumbling wadas, traffic congestion in the narrow lanes, and lack of potable water are among key issues

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

Sited in the heart of old Pune, the prestigious Kasba Peth Assembly seat a BJP stronghold for three decades, will witness a tussle between two Pune civic body stalwarts - the mayor Mukta Tilak, (BJP-Sena candidate) and Arvind Shinde of the Congress.

The constituency, which comprises a significant part of Peshwa-era Pune with its rickety wadas, was until recently senior BJP leader Girish Bapat's virtual fiefdom with him winning the seat in consecutive elections since 1995 before vacating it to contest - and win - the Pune Lok Sabha seat in the general elections this year.

The city, with its legendary Ganesha mandals, also forms the heart of Pune's old trading community with a significant proportion of small traders from the Gujrati and Jain communities.

The Congress has been able to wrest the Kasba Assembly seat only twice from the BJP since 1980 - in 1985 and in the 1991 by-election.

The problem of crumbling old wadas (traditional dwellings) and their long-pending redevelopment, traffic congestion in the narrow, bustling lanes and lack of potable water in several places are among the key issues in this segment.

While the situation has remained unchanged, two fresh candidates from the major contenders have raised hopes that some of the burning civic problems may be redressed.

"The BJP won the Pune Municipal Corporation polls by a thumping majority. Yet, the problems of Kasba Peth, including that of water have not only persisted but have multiplied," alleged Mr. Shinde, a three-time corporator who was one of the front-runners for the candidacy of the Pune Lok Sabha constituency.

He faces an extremely tough competitor in Ms. Tilak - a scion of the Bal Gangadhar Tilak family - who is also Mayor of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

A veteran party hand, Ms. Tilak has a strong base in the Old Pune area, having been the BJP's leader in the PMC since 2009.

"This constituency which also includes Narayan Peth and Sadashiv Peth has veered towards the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the BJP as it has been the hotbed of Hindu nationalism," says city-based political analyst Rajendra Pandharipure.

"Moreover, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have come together in the battle for the Kasba segment. This is bound to favour Mr. Shinde," opined Mr. Pandharipure.

Mhalgi Prabhodini that propagates the Sangh's ideology.

"The Brahmin voters here have always sided with the BJP. This is an area whose political clime has been charged with its strongly religious fervour favouring radical Hindutva outfits like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). In contrast, the Congress and the NCP party structures here have remained weak," says Mr. Pandharipure.

However, he also said that things could change this time around owing to new areas being added after the delimitation of 2008.

Observers say that while the dice may be loaded in Ms. Tilak's favour, the BJP campaign machinery will be heavily engaged in the Kothrud Assembly seat, where BJP State chief Chandrakant Patil faces a prestige battle.

While the BJP had been winning the past elections owing to a divided opposition, observers point out that this time the saffron alliance faces a possible vote fragmentation due to the intense disaffection prevailing among the Shiv Sena in Pune.

"Moreover, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have come together in the battle for the Kasba segment. This is bound to favour Mr. Shinde," opined Mr. Pandharipure.

## Hellaro, Nooreh to be openers of Indian panorama at 50th IFFI

Festival to also screen films with audio description for the visually impaired

**KENNITH ROSARIO**  
MUMBAI

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar on Sunday announced the 26 feature and 15 non-feature films, among the 250 films, which will be screened in the Indian panorama section at the 50th International Film Festival of India in Goa to be held from November 20 to 28 in Goa.

The festival's flagship section, which showcases a selection of contemporary Indian feature and non-feature films, will be opened by Abhishek Shah's Gujarati movie, *Hellaro*, which won the best film at the 66th National Film Awards, in the feature category. Abhishek Shah's *Nooreh*, which follows a young girl whose life is disrupted by daily crossfire at the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir, will open the non-feature category.



A still from Ashish Pandey's *Nooreh*. The movie will open the non-feature category at the film festival. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Panorama section's jury was headed by filmmaker and screenwriter Priyadarshan (feature) and documentary filmmaker

Toronto International Film Festival last month; Pradip Kurrah's *Khasi* film, *Iewduh*; and Manju Borah's *Pangchenpa* film, *In The Land Of Poison Women*.

Mr. Javadekar said that this edition's highlight will be screening of films with audio description for the visually impaired. He also announced that Russia will be the partner country of the festival this year. Israel was the country in focus last year.

"Since this is the 50th year of the festival, we will also showcase a few films that were made in India more than five decades ago," said Mr. Javadekar. Celebrating Amitabh Bachchan's acting repertoire with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the festival will also present a retrospective of seven to eight films, spanning the actor's five-decade-long career.

The Panorama section's jury was headed by filmmaker and screenwriter Priyadarshan (feature) and documentary filmmaker

Rajendra Janglay (non-feature) this year. Other feature films include Lijo Jose Pellissery's Malayalam film, *Jallikattu*, which premiered at the

## IN BRIEF



Uranium plant polluting water, say A.P. leaders

KADAPPA  
Leaders of the Opposition parties in Andhra Pradesh who visited the Uranium Corporation of India's plant in Pulivendula (represented by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in the Assembly) in Kadappa district on Sunday, called the plant a "major pollutant." The team led by Kalava Srinivasulu and Bhuma Akhila Priya of the TDP and CPI leader K. Ramakrishna said the plant had polluted groundwater.

## Chiranjeevi unveils statue of actor SVR

TADEPALLIGUDU  
Actor K. Chiranjeevi unveiled a bronze statue of veteran actor Samara Venkata Ranga Rao (popularly known as S.V. Ranga Rao or SVR), here in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. The nine-foot statue was installed at the Housing Board Colony. Apart from thousands of fans, Narsapuram MP Raghuram Raju and other leaders were present. Mr. Chiranjeevi said Ranga Rao was known for his great performance and dialogue delivery.

## Kerala govt. to go after Maradu architects

KOCHI  
The Kerala government has drawn up complaints against four architects who designed the four illegal apartments at Maradu here, which the Supreme Court has ordered to be pulled down for violating the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines. Complaints will be preferred against the architects with the Council of Architecture, a statutory body formed under the Architects Act 1972. The State would seek suspension of their licences and membership from the council.

# Two trainee pilots killed as aircraft crashes in Telangana

Flight caught in heavy rain crashed into cotton fields near Sultanpur village

RAVI REDDY  
HYDERABAD

Two trainee pilots were killed when their trainer aircraft crashed into a cotton field on the outskirts of Sultanpur village in Telangana's Vikarabad district, 100 km from the State capital, on Sunday afternoon.

The victims were identified as Prakash Vishal from Bihar and Amanpreet Kaur from Punjab, both aged 21.

The four-seater trainer aircraft belonging to Wings Aviation Private Limited, operating out of the Old Airport at Begumpet in Hyderabad, crashed due to bad weather. "It was raining heavily in the area and the aircraft apparently nosedived into the farm belonging to Bantu Balakrishna," Bantawaram SI Venkateswarulu said.

"The aircraft first hit the ground and then dragged for some time. Wreckage of the aircraft was found spread over



The aircraft that crashed on the outskirts of a village in Telangana's Vikarabad district on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

er a radius of 100 yards. Its two occupants died on the spot. Their bodies were lying close to the scene of the crash," Vikarabad District

Collector Ayesha Masrat Khanam told *The Hindu*.

The locals of Sultanpur were the first to reach the spot in pouring rain. They

scouted the cotton fields and found the bodies and the wreckage of the aircraft.

On receiving information, the police arrived and cordoned off the area. The aviation academy in Hyderabad was informed; its founder Y. Prabhakar Reddy rushed to the crash site.

## Knee-deep slush

Vikarabad Superintendent of Police M. Narayana and Ms. Khanam oversaw the retrieval of the bodies. It was still raining heavily. Police personnel and the medical team from the Marpally Primary Health Centre found it difficult to wade through knee-deep slush to the accident spot, the police said.

The post-mortem was conducted at the crash site itself. Later, the bodies were handed over to Mr. Reddy.

Mr. Reddy said the ill-fated Cessna 172 was fit for flying with no technical issues.

# KCR sacks 50,000 striking bus staff

Telangana CM says there will be no further talks; calls for speedy recruitment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Toughening his stand against the striking employees of the State-owned Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday said the government will not compromise under any circumstances and there would be no further talks with the striking unions.

The employees began their indefinite strike on Saturday, demanding, among other things, merger of the

TSRTC with the government.

The government said a firm no to taking back the employees who did not join duty before the deadline it set. "There are just 1,200 employees left in the TSRTC as of now," Mr. Rao said, even as about 50,000 employees continued their strike for the second consecutive day, disrupting bus services across the State.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to hire 2,500 buses as an immediate measure while another 4,114 private buses could be de-

ployed as stage carriers. Officials were already holding discussions with the private managements in this regard.

Mr. Rao, who held a review meeting, termed the employees' decision a "serious mistake" and said there was no question of merger of the TSRTC with the government.

"The government is firm against yielding to blackmail tactics and is not willing to tolerate indiscipline."

The Chief Minister wanted the officials to speed up recruitment of drivers and said

only such employees who gave an undertaking that they would not join union activities should be given appointments.

## Stir will continue: JAC

The TSRTC Joint Action Committee announced that it would continue the strike come what may. Speaking to *The Hindu*, JAC leader K. Raji Reddy from TSRTC Employees' Union said: "Nowhere in the world have 50,000

employees been removed. But we are not afraid. We will take legal recourse."

# Activists send another letter to PM in protest

'Is it anti-national to seek steps to check mob lynching?

STAFF REPORTER  
KALABURAGI

To register their protest against sedition charges slapped against 49 eminent personalities – including historian Ramchandra Guha, actor Aparna Sen and filmmakers Mani Ratnam and Adoor Gopalakrishnan – for expressing concern in an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over growing incidents of mob lynching, civil society activists and intellectuals here in Karnataka have written a similar letter to the PM.

The letter, signed by K. Neela, Mahesh Rathod, Arjun Bhadre, Maruti Gokhale, Kashinath Ambalagi, Maula Mulla and others, was symbolically released to the media here on Sunday.

"Is urging the Prime Minister to take measures to



In defence: Civil society activists releasing an open letter to PM Narendra Modi in Kalaburagi on Sunday. ■ ARUN KULKARNI

prevent mob lynching and ensure rule of law an anti-national activity? The celebrated intellectuals and scholars, who have contributed a great deal in their own fields to make India proud, have demanded the very same thing that India's Constitution guarantees to every citizen. If that is an anti-national

activity, most of the people in this country, including we who have signed this letter to Prime Minister, would be anti-national," Ms. Neela said.

"The Constitution has given us the right to question authority whenever we feel that it is doing wrong," Kashinath Ambalagi said.

The stage is set for the grand finale of Mysuru Dasara with the caparisoned elephants all geared up for Jamboo Savari to mark Vijayadashmi on Tuesday.

This will be followed by the torchlight parade and a display of equestrian events by the police personnel at Bannimantap Grounds, which will bring down the curtain on the 409th edition of the Mysuru Dasara.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will perform the puja to the Nandi Dhwaja between 2.15 p.m. and 2.58 p.m., after which the procession with the elephants and the tableaux will roll out.

Elephant Arjuna with the golden howdah will begin his march between 4.31 p.m. and 4.57 p.m. to bring the curtain down on the 10-day Nada Habba.

Elephant Arjuna with the golden howdah will begin his march between 4.31 p.m. and 4.57 p.m. to bring the curtain down on the 10-day Nada Habba.

Diya's aunt's statements to the media about the girl vomiting blood and the presence of old injuries in her body added to the assumption of physical assault doing rounds till late evening.

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with symptoms of fever and had beating marks on her legs, leading to suspicion of

another round of assault.

Diya, daughter of Deepu and Ramya from Chirakkal in Parippally, died on her way to the Thiruvananthapuram

# 15-year-old has a thriller to his name

Kerala school student publishes novel based on a U.S. military project

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN  
KOTTAYAM

Edward Brooks and John Doe are on an intriguing mission for the United States in the post-Cold War era.

The agent-scientist duo, associated with the Central Intelligence Agency, exhibits youth-like agility, while at times, they sound youthfully mischievous too. Probably because they are fictional characters created by a writer even younger to them.

These two U.S. citizens are the central characters of the English crime fiction *Shroud of the Devil*, authored by Adith Tom Alex, a Class 10 student from Kanjirappally in Kerala's Kottayam district.



Adith Tom Alex, 15, with his thriller *Shroud of the Devil*.

The novel revolves around the Stargate Project of the U.S. and runs into 287 pages.

Adith, the head boy of St. Antony's School, Anakkallu, had developed a deep interest in English novels

from a young age. Innate writing skills, coupled with a fertile imagination, put the youngster firm on the writer's path. From short stories to blogs, he tried his hand at everything.

**Within a year**  
The storyline of his first novel was developed over a year while he spent just over a couple of months to finish the plot. "It just evolved. I combined my research, historical understanding, and imagination to draw the readers into the setting and experience the characters," he says.

The turning point came when Fr. Michael Anakkallil, former principal of the Mary Giri

Higher Secondary School in Koothattukulam, chanced upon the synopsis of his novel. Encouraged by his feedback, Adith's parents, Alex Tom and Siji Sebastian, kept him on the right track.

A week ago, Adith's first novel was released. K. Jayakumar, former Chief Secretary and former Vice Chancellor of Malayalam University, released the novel at a function.

Another fiction, set in rural Kerala, is already in the works. "The outline of the next novel *The Vial of Infinite Hatred* is being prepared. I hope to finish it by December," he says. The second novel will be followed up with a sequel to his first work, next year.

Diya, daughter of Deepu and Ramya from Chirakkal in Parippally, died on her way to the Thiruvananthapuram

# More arrests likely in Kerala serial murder case

Police team investigating 20 contacts of prime suspect

STAFF REPORTER  
KOZHIKODE

More arrests are likely in the Kerala serial murder case as the Crime Branch is investigating 20 more persons who reportedly maintained close connections with Jolly Shaju, the prime suspect in the murders of her in-laws, husband and three relatives between 2002 and 2016 at the Koodathayi village in Kozhikode.

The suspects also include some family members who were reportedly aware that the deaths occurred due to deliberate poisoning.

Ms. Shaju allegedly poisoned them to death with cyanide to grab their property and marry another man.

Crime Branch sources said Ms. Shaju and two others – M.S. Mathew and P. Prajikumar – were formally arrested after interrogating about 200 people in the area. Hundreds of phone calls were scientifically analysed with the support of cyber cell experts to find the leads.

The available photographs and video footage of all the six deaths in the family were also collected to check the presence of others who may be involved.

## Party workers involved?

A few active political party workers are also under the scanner of the police. Two of them who were very close to Ms. Shaju were served notice to appear before the Crime Branch team for recording their statement.

Sources said the political party leaders were suspected of using their influence to cover up the incident. The house of one of the party leaders had been inspected by the Crime Branch squad for gathering evidence.



Grim reminder: The house at Kozhikode's Koodathayi village, where three of the murders took place. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

deaths was sealed by the police.

## Bid to shift papers

It was put under surveillance as Mr. Shaju apparently tried to move some documents from the house to another location.

There could have been property documents in the bundle, since the police had found that there were serious property disputes within the family, and may have led to the murders.

Crime Branch sources said they would again interrogate Mr. Shaju to verify his claim that he was not aware of the role played by his wife in the murder of six persons, including his former wife and child. Though he was taken into custody on Saturday for interrogation, he was later allowed to go. According to police sources, he had seemed unaffected by the death of his former wife Silly and child Alphine.

Though M.S. Mathew and P. Prajikumar were arrested on suspicion that they arranged cyanide for Ms. Shaju, police sources said they were not directly involved in the murders. During the interrogation, they claimed that the woman secured cyanide for killing a dog.

# Mysuru gears up for grand Dasara finale

Jamboo Savari by Arjuna and 11 other elephants will bring down the curtain on 10-day Nada Habba

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

The stage is set for the grand finale of Mysuru Dasara with the caparisoned elephants all geared up for Jamboo Savari to mark Vijayadashmi on Tuesday.

This will be followed by the torchlight parade and a display of equestrian events by the police personnel at Bannimantap Grounds, which will bring down the curtain on the 409th edition of the Mysuru Dasara.

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will perform the puja to the Nandi Dhwaja between 2.15 p.m. and 2.58 p.m., after which the procession with the elephants and the tableaux will roll out.

Elephant Arjuna with the golden howdah will begin his march between 4.31 p.m. and 4.57 p.m. to bring the curtain down on the 10-day Nada Habba.



Awash with colours: The illuminated K.R. Circle in Mysuru on Sunday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

# Death of four-year-old was not due to assault, say police

Autopsy reveals that she died of pneumonia, meningitis

STAFF REPORTER  
KOLLAM

The police registering a case of unnatural death following the sudden demise of a four-year-old in Kerala had sent media into a frenzy on Sunday with speculation of physical assault doing rounds till late evening.

The girl was first taken to the Government Medical College, Kollam, around 9 a.m. in a critical condition with symptoms of fever and had beating marks on her legs, leading to suspicion of

another round of assault.

We noticed beating marks on her leg and intimated the police. It's a usual procedure

HABEEB NASEEM  
Deputy Medical Superintendent

uram Medical College.

Diya's aunt's statements to the media about the girl vomiting blood and the presence of old injuries in her body added to the assumption of physical assault. But the autopsy at Thiruvananthapuram revealed pneumonia and meningitis as the cause of death.

"Contrary to media reports we have not filed any case against the parents as

Centre will help Indians stuck in Saudi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THRISUR

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan has said that the Centre will intervene to help Indian workers stranded in labour camps in Saudi Arabia. The Minister promised the support at a

NEARBY



'Stalin's remarks amount to contempt of court'

CHENNAI

AIADMK Radhapuram MLA I.S. Inbadurai on Sunday said DMK president M.K. Stalin's remarks hinting at the result of the recount of postal and certain EVM votes polled in Radhapuram in 2016 would amount to contempt of court. Mr. Stalin had cited social posts, which claimed DMK candidate Appavu had won in the recount of votes.

NHA, Google join hands to strengthen AB-PMJAY

NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority has signed a Statement of Intent with Google to strengthen the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The NHA, in a release, added that Google would help provide training to NHA personnel to build their digital skills.

Two coaches of train derail in Uttar Pradesh

NEW DELHI

Two coaches of the Lucknow-Anand Vihar train derailed near Moradabad station on Sunday, officials said. No injuries have been reported so far, Northern Railways PRO Deepak Kumar said. The fifth and eighth coach of the train derailed between Katghar and Moradabad stations at 10.15 a.m., Mr. Kumar said. PTI

Govt. teacher suspended after viral smoking video

SITAPUR

A teacher of a government school here in U.P. was suspended after a video purportedly showing him smoking in a classroom went viral on social media, a senior official said. Mr. Prakash was suspended on Saturday after his video went viral, District Basic Education Officer Ajay Kumar said. PTI

# Police disrupt climate strike in Mumbai

Volunteers seek declaration of climate emergency by govt., claim police warned them on Aarey

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

Barely 20 minutes after protesters gathered at Bandra Reclamation on Sunday morning, demanding that the government declare a climate emergency, the police dispersed them. Many claimed the police warned them against bringing up the Aarey forest case.

Organised by a volunteer-led group called Extinction Rebellion (XR), the agitators, that included school children and college students, planned a mock die-in. Following the disruption, they shifted their venue to a nearby parking lot.

XR has been in the news for its protests across the world.

Last week, another chapter of the group had gathered in London, spilling red paint to resemble blood, and rais-



Do or die: Activists and climate strike supporters taking part in a die-in protest as a part of the Global Climate Strike declaration in Mumbai. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

ing a sign that read 'stop funding climate death'.

#### Unique protest

In Mumbai, the group planned a more subtle protest with participants lying down pretending to be dead.

Policemen were already present before we reached the venue. We showed them our permission letters but they said no gathering would be allowed as Section 144 was in force," an XR volunteer told *The Hindu*, adding

the policemen also told them to refrain from discussing the Aarey issue.

"We had a few students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences who had come down to talk about Aarey. But they had to go back due to a planned event on climate change," he said.

to the police diktat," he said.

The group had initially planned to march to Aarey colony following the Bandra protest. But, they had to cancel it in view of the police action against the protesters who assembled at Aarey. "We did not want to risk the safety of the people," the volunteer said.

#### To approach Mayor

The volunteer also said they will approach the Mayor to demand a declaration of climate crisis in Mumbai. The group has planned similar events in other cities.

A press statement from XR said they are a group standing up for Indian assets that matter to all Indians first, and specifically Mumbai. "It's quite shocking to see authorities intervene for a planned event on climate change," he said.

## Supreme Court Bench to hear Aarey forest case today

Authorities killing the lungs of Mumbai, says letter to SC

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday hear a plea against felling of 2,646 trees at the Aarey colony by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) to make way for a Metro car shed.

On Sunday, the top court received a letter from a delegation of law students against the axing of trees in the Aarey forest.

The top court decided to pursue it as a public interest litigation (PIL) and constituted a "Special Bench" to hear the case.



The top court received a letter from law students ■ AP

The MMRCL began axing the trees from Friday night, hours after the Bombay High Court had rejected a bunch of petitions by NGOs and ac-

tivists against the felling of trees in the prime green area of the city.

Following protests, the Mumbai police have imposed Section 144 in and around Aarey and also arrested around 29 green activists.

The law students, in their letter, had appealed for urgent hearing by the top court, contending that "part of Aarey will be cleared with all trees axed leading to irreversible loss".

The 29 activists were on Sunday granted bail by a holiday court.

## Yes Bank files complaint to tackle fake news

Rumours being spread on WhatsApp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Yes Bank, a private sector lender, has lodged a complaint with the Mumbai police and the cybercell against dissemination of fake news and rumours on social media about the bank's finances.

"Yes Bank has requested the authorities to form a multi-disciplinary team of experts for detecting the origin of the fake news and assess the short-sell positions, held either directly or indirectly by such accused persons," the bank said in a statement.

It said some miscreants

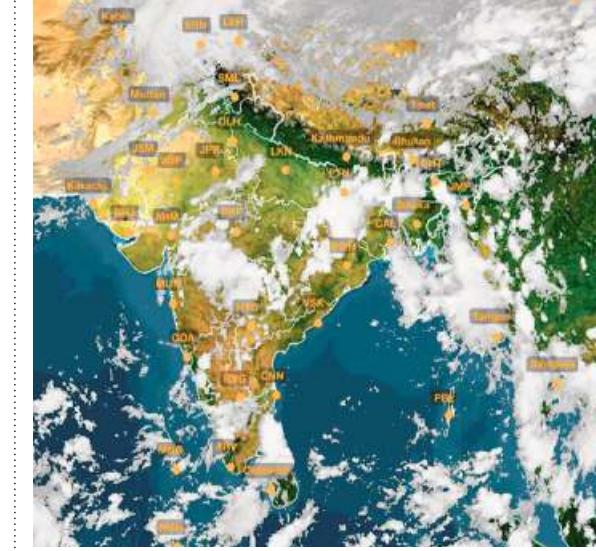
were spreading false information and malicious rumours on WhatsApp and other social media platforms to create panic among its depositors.

Yes Bank shares came under pressure recently after promoters sold shares and lenders invoked pledged shares.

"The messages attempt to show the bank in a poor light, and are intended to tarnish the bank's image in the eyes of its depositors, stakeholders and the public," the private sector lender said, adding it remained committed to protecting the interest of all stakeholders.

#### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.9...	34.7...	12.0...	Kozhikode	1.4...	33.1...	24.6
Ahmedabad	...	32.9...	23.7	Kurnool	2.2...	33.1...	24.5
Aizawl	...	28.2...	19.1	Lucknow	...	33.1...	23.4
Allahabad	...	33.1...	24.0	Madurai	...	34.8...	25.0
Bengaluru	0.4...	28.7...	20.6	Mangaluru	0.5...	32.5...	23.0
Bhopal	...	31.7...	21.6	Mumbai	...	33.0...	23.5
Bhubaneswar	...	34.7...	23.6	Mysuru	11.4...	30.1...	20.2
Chandigarh	...	31.0...	19.0	New Delhi	...	32.6...	21.1
Chennai	...	33.5...	27.2	Patna	...	33.4...	25.3
Coimbatore	...	34.0...	23.2	Port Blair	5.6...	32.2...	24.1
Dehradun	...	32.2...	18.7	Puducherry	...	33.3...	23.9
Gangtok	...	21.2...	16.1	Pune	2.5...	31.2...	20.0
Goa	2.9...	32.5...	23.0	Raipur	7.2...	32.0...	25.2
Guwahati	...	34.0...	23.3	Ranchi	0.5...	30.0...	22.0
Hubballi	...	27.0...	21.0	Shillong	5.5...	22.2...	19.4
Hyderabad	2.2...	30.6...	22.4	Shimla	...	22.6...	12.8
Imphal	2.4...	29.8...	19.7	Srinagar	...	21.7...	8.6
Jaipur	...	21.2...	21.8	Tiruvananthapuram	1.2...	32.7...	23.9
Kochi	37.6...	31.4...	24.4	Tiruchi	...	25.2...	25.2
Kohima	...	23.6...	15.8	Vijayawada	...	34.1...	24.5
Kolkata	0.7...	33.1...	26.6	Visakhapatnam	...	32.4...	26.6

(Rainfall data: mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	127	159	113	0.122	108	■■■■■
Bengaluru	0.8	65	74	—	124	■■■■■
Chennai	0.3	25.5	143	—	—	■■■■■
Delhi	0.6	102	32	0.20	210	■■■■■
Hyderabad	0.4	22	25	100	—	■■■■■
Kolkata	11	53	15	141	113	■■■■■
Lucknow	0.3	20	54	175	—	■■■■■
Mumbai	0.6	31	111	42	59	■■■■■
Pune	0.8	67	79	75	—	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	38	62	29	54	99	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kalyan, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 249, indicating a dangerous level of pollution. In contrast, Elloor, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 33.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■■ Moderate ■■■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## PMC case: ED seizes private jet, cars of HDIL promoters

Former PMC Bank chairman sent to custody till Oct. 9

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL  
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized the private jet and cars of the Housing Development Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) promoters in connection with the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank case.

The law enforcement agency had raided the premises of HDIL promoters on Friday.

The promoters of the debt-ridden HDIL Rakesh and Sarang Wadhawan, who are accused in the scam, were sent to police custody till October 9.

The duo was arrested af-



Rakesh Wadhawan

ter they failed to cooperate during the investigation.

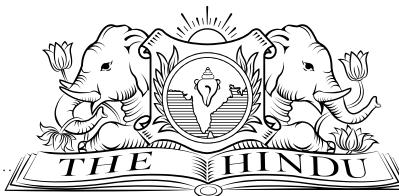
According to police, PMC bank officials gave loans to HDIL between 2008 and 2019, despite no repayment of the previous loans.

An FIR was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, includ-

## Elderly artist, gardener found dead in Goa

Woman murdered by the gardener

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
PANAJI



## Sedition annoyance

The lower judiciary should not act reflexively on frivolous, politically motivated complaints

The registration of a case of sedition against 49 prominent citizens at a police station in Bihar's Muzaffarpur for writing an open letter in July to the Prime Minister has caused understandable outrage. There was nothing in the appeal, which asks for steps to stop lynchings and other hate crimes, especially in the name of religion, that even vaguely connoted an attempt to promote disaffection or any prejudice to national integration. In these polarised times, it is not surprising that a lawyer took it upon himself to initiate criminal proceedings against the film-makers, artists and writers such as Shyam Benegal, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Aparna Sen and Ramachandra Guha for signing the open appeal on a matter of public concern. That a chief judicial magistrate had taken this vexatious complaint on file and directed the police to register an FIR is perplexing. Magistrates indeed have the power to order a police investigation into cognisable offences. And the Supreme Court has, in *Lalita Kumari vs. Uttar Pradesh* (2013), laid down that registration of an FIR is mandatory if information received by the police discloses a cognisable offence, and that in some cases, a preliminary enquiry may be conducted before the FIR is registered. However, in this case, it is quite astounding how the court or the police could conclude that the contents were seditious or indicative of any other offence.

While private complaints targeting public figures are not unusual, courts should not, without sufficient cause, indulge the motivated outrage of litigious complainants. Superior courts do intervene to quell attempts by those claiming to be offended by some remark or public statements, but it is time the lower judiciary stopped acting reflexively on frivolous complaints. Surely, the court should have been aware of the ongoing national debate on retaining sedition as an offence under the IPC's Section 124A and growing demand for its abrogation. The pervasive disregard for public opinion against the indiscriminate use of the sedition provision is disappointing enough. It is worse if the magistracy disregards Supreme Court judgments that say sedition is attracted only if there is incitement to violence, and does not apply to statements that contain mere opinions, howsoever strong they may be. It is unfortunate that the court did not see that the complaint was nothing more than a political counterblast to what the complainant saw as criticism of the Prime Minister. One can only hope that the Patna High Court puts an end to this farcical attempt to use the judiciary for political ends, and also examine how its supervisory powers can be used to sensitise the magistracy to the constitutional provisions protecting free speech.

## Best friends for now

India and Bangladesh share a great relationship, but areas of concern remain

Frequent meetings between neighbours are hallmark of a strong friendship, and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day India visit, the first full bilateral meeting since both countries went to polls, marks a new chapter between New Delhi and Dhaka. The two nations have come closer over a decade-long engagement that began with Ms. Hasina's return to power in 2008, with an improvement in the strategic sphere, and alignment on regional and global issues, connectivity and trade. During this visit, the two countries have committed to upgrading port facilities, implementation of India's under-utilised Lines of Credit, a coastal surveillance system, and agreements on education, culture and youth. They will also coordinate better border management and counter-terror cooperation, and are also working on a regional trilateral energy sharing arrangement with Bhutan. Mr. Modi and Ms. Hasina inaugurated three projects, which includes one for the availability of LPG to India. Where they have failed to make headway yet, despite many forward-looking paragraphs in the joint statement, is on river-water sharing agreements. Chief among them is the Teesta agreement, for which a framework agreement was inked in 2011, but which has not moved forward since, chiefly because of tensions between the Central and West Bengal governments. The long-pending upgrading of the Ganga-Padma barrage project, the draft framework of interim sharing agreements for six rivers – Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumi, Dharla and Dudhku- mar – as well as the draft framework of interim sharing agreement of the Feni river are also pending. This task must not be taken lightly between two countries that share 54 transboundary rivers, and where water management is key to prosperity, and often a source of tensions and humanitarian disasters.

Growing concerns in Bangladesh over the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam are another source of tensions, and the government must not ignore questions Ms. Hasina raised with Mr. Modi, in New York and New Delhi. While Bangladesh appears to have taken at face value the explanations by Mr. Modi and the External Affairs Minister that the NRC is in its early stages, that it is a judicial process, and is at present an internal matter for India, it is worried by statements to the contrary by Home Minister Amit Shah. Even in the past week, he has said that India will deport all non-citizens – he has often called them "termites" – and has taken credit for the NRC as a policy the government will pursue across the country, rather than a court-mandated process. The divergence in the two sets of statements proffered by New Delhi will ensure the issue gets raised again and again by Dhaka, and could cast a shadow over what one Bangladesh official otherwise described as the "best of the best" of ties between two neighbours.

# A Bill that undercuts key constitutional values

There is ample evidence that the protection of minorities is not the genuine objective of the Citizenship Amendment Bill



GAUTAM BHATIA

Last week, while speaking about implementing a National Register of Citizens in West Bengal, Home Minister Amit Shah said, "I want to assure Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist and Christian refugees, you will not be forced to leave India by the Centre." These words sparked an immediate backlash as Mr. Shah had evidently omitted one religious community, Muslims, from his statement. But his statement was not merely a communal dog-whistle: he was echoing the provisions of the Citizenship Amendment Bill, which the previous National Democratic Alliance government introduced in Parliament before the last election, but was unable to enact because of widespread protests in the Northeast Indian States. Mr. Shah made it clear, however, that the new government would re-introduce, and pass, the Bill in the next parliamentary session, or soon thereafter.

### Umbrella Bill

So, what is the Citizenship Amendment Bill? As its name suggests, it makes an amendment to the Citizenship Act, the umbrella law that sets out the elements of Indian citizenship. The Amendment stipulates that "persons belonging to minority communities, namely, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan... shall not be treated as illegal migrants for the purposes of that Act". These individuals are made eligible for naturalisation as Indian citizens, and furthermore, the normal precondition for naturali-

sation – having spent 12 years in the country – is halved to six years. In simple language, therefore, the Citizenship Amendment Bill does two things: it shields a set of individuals from being declared illegal migrants (and, by extension, shields them from detention or deportation); and it creates a fast-track to citizenship for these individuals. The problem, of course, is that it does so on an explicitly communal basis: it categorically excludes Muslims from its ambit. The implications are clear: if the government goes ahead with its plan of implementing a nationwide National Register of Citizens, then those who find themselves excluded from it will be divided into two categories: (predominantly) Muslims, who will now be deemed illegal migrants, and all others, who would have been deemed illegal migrants, but are now immunised by the Citizenship Amendment Bill, if they can show that their country of origin is Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan.

The last bit is important, because it shows that non-Muslims who are left out of a hypothetical nation-wide NRC will not immediately receive legal immunity, but will have to jump through further hoops before they are protected. That apart, however, the fact remains that by dividing (alleged) migrants into Muslims (but also, as we shall see below, Jews and atheists) and non-Muslims, the Citizenship Amendment Bill explicitly, and blatantly, seeks to enshrine religious discrimination into law, contrary to our long-standing, secular constitutional ethos.

Of course, neither the Bill nor the government directly admits that it is targeting Muslims. Both the text of the Bill and its "Statement of Objects and Reasons" refers to "minority communities" from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The logic appears to be



that as these three countries are Muslim-majority, they may be subject to persecution on account of their faith, and, therefore, need refuge in a country such as India.

### Flawed logic

If that is the logic of the Bill, however, then it is so evidently flawed that it borders on irrationality. First, as the PRS Legislative Research website points out, if the objective is the protection of minorities, then there is no explanation for why Jews and atheists (to take just two examples) have been left out. Second – and more importantly – there are Muslim religious minorities within these countries who are subjected to grave and serious persecution: the classic example is that of the Ahmadiyya in Pakistan. And third, there is no explanation for why only these three countries have been singled out. Lately, the Rohingya community in Myanmar, another neighbouring country, has been subjected to prolonged persecution, ethnic cleansing, and potentially genocide. However, the government has been openly hostile towards the Rohingyas and has even argued for their deportation before the Supreme Court.

It is therefore evident that the protection of minorities is not the genuine objective of the Citizenship Amendment Bill: the gap bet-

ween that stated objective and the actual text of the Bill is wide enough that a ship can sail through it. But if that is not the objective, then there remains no conceivable justification for the language of the Bill: it is religious discrimination, plain and simple.

### Violating the Constitution

Now, some people have argued that even if this is true, Article 15 of the Constitution – bars religious discrimination – applies only to citizens. But what these arguments forget is Article 14 of the same Constitution, which guarantees to all persons equality before the law, and the equal protection of law. Discriminatory treatment and especially, discrimination that is arbitrary, and classifications that are unreasonable violate the essence of the equal treatment clause. A state that separates individuals and treats them unequally on palpably arbitrary grounds violates the prescription of Article 14, and the heart and soul of the Indian Constitution: respecting the dignity of all.

Beyond issues of strict constitutionality, there are other disturbing issues raised by the Citizenship Amendment Bill. The first is how it dramatically seeks to alter the basis of citizenship in India. During the framing of the Indian Constitution, it was agreed that the primary basis for Indian citizenship would be *jus soli* – or, citizenship by birth (in the territory of India). Over the years this principle has been diluted to an extent, with citizenship by descent replacing *jus soli* in certain respects. The Bill, however, will be the first time that religion or ethnicity will be made the basis of citizenship. That would do grave damage to the very idea of India as an inclusive and diverse polity, where religion has no bearing on who can become a full member of society.

Second, the Citizenship Amend-

ment Bill is closely linked to plans for a nationwide National Register of Citizens. The link was explicitly drawn by the Home Minister: that the Citizenship Amendment Bill is required to protect (predominantly) non-Muslims who are excluded from the NRC.

### Argument and reality

However, apart from the now-public knowledge of how flawed the NRC process has been in Assam, there is a key question: why do we need to have a national NRC? Mr. Shah has stated that it is required for national security, and that India cannot "run smoothly under the weight of so many intruders". However, there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that there is a huge influx of illegal migrants into India: in fact, recent evidence suggests that the rate of migration has been declining. The Assam NRC arose out of a very specific historical experience, and Assam's own position as a border State; however, for the rest of India, Assam's own experience shows that an exercise such as this – flawed and riddled with errors as it is – will only lead to misery and exclusion on a national scale, with no reason whatsoever to justify it.

The coming months, therefore, will present a serious challenge to fundamental constitutional values. A nationwide NRC will replicate the flaws of the Assam NRC on a much larger scale; and for those who find themselves on its wrong side, the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Bill will protect some – but only some – based on their religion. Both exercises, therefore, need to be urgently challenged, at the level of popular movements, in the domain of Parliament, and of course, before the sentinels charged with guarding our fundamental rights – the courts.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

# A road to economic revival runs through agriculture

The current growth slowdown is an ideal time to implement doable agricultural reforms



NAVEEN P. SINGH & RANJITH P.C.

One of the world's fastest growing economies, India, is now facing sluggish growth, with the Reserve Bank of India sharply cutting GDP growth forecast to 6.1% for 2019-20, which is lowest in last six years; there has been a sharp decline in the performance of key sectors.

While some economists feel this slow pace is also a stage to bounce back and is cyclical, others (policy pundits) see this as a gross failure of economic reforms and even a colonial legacy, which only time will tell. Whatever the reason for the slowdown, the opportunity to speed up must accommodate a diverse body of opinion and options for sustainable and inclusive growth.

The conventional approach of fiscal and monetary stimulus options to address the relics of a slow pace would only give immediate relief and not an enduring solution. Hence key policy measures in improving the economy should also take cognisance of the crisis in the agricultural sector.

ging growth while stimulating key sectors.

### Effect on primary sectors

The ripples of the slowdown are gradually moving to the primary sectors which is already reeling under an unprecedented confluence of pressure. Real agricultural and allied gross value added (GVA) grew by 2.9% during 2011-12 to 2017-18, while in the National Agricultural Policy (2000), it should have been around 4%, to attain an overall economic growth of 8%. A highly skewed and unprecedented monsoon, erratic rainfall, and extreme natural events are creating havoc as far as farms and farmers are concerned which in turn are likely to disrupt supply chains, fuel inflation and have a negative impact on consumption, all of which can further dampen the prospects of revival of the economy.

In addition, the current growth rate in the farm sector is less than adequate to take on developmental challenges originating from the Sustainable Development Goals, mainly zero hunger, no poverty, life on land, and gender equality. Hence any key reforms packages in improving the economy should also take cognisance of the crisis in the agricultural sector.

The key to addressing the slow-



down lies in a selective group of reforms in the key sectors.

As always the push must start with the primary sector. First, there is a great need to accept the role of agriculture in invigorating crucial economic segments. The sector is a potential enabler and employer for more than 50% of the population; it also has the potential to revive "animal spirits" by ensuring farm viability: increasing the ratio of farm to non-farm income to 70:30 by 2022-23 from the present 60:40. According to the agriculture census 2015-16, the real income of farmers doubled in almost 20 years from 1993-94 to 2015-16. As the target to double farmers' income by 2022 is nearing, there must be fast-lane options and swift actions to ensure curated reforms on land, market,

price, and ameliorate supply side constraints. As reiterated in the past, the Agricultural Development Council (ADC) in line with the GST Council is a dire need to make agricultural reforms more expressive and representative. For better income distribution, there is also a need to revisit regional crop planning and the agro-climatic zone model at the highest possible level so as to make agriculture the engine of sustainable economic growth in India 2.0 by 2022.

Second there is a strong case to believe that deindustrialisation 2.0 and creative destruction is underway from the decreasing growth rate, and that slowly fading reform to stimulate the traditional sectors is adding to unemployment and job loss. There is immense need to promote occupations which are less influenced by the slowdown such as farming, handloom, handicrafts and others.

### Investment and jobs

Third in the Economic Survey 2018-19, the working age population will continue to rise through 2041. Therefore, there is urgent need to increase the job-to-investment ratio which is currently very low. Some estimates say that ₹1 crore investment in India can create only four formal jobs. What has been less noticed and assessed

in any survey is that inter-State migration has a huge impact on personal consumption expenditure. Giving a policy nudge to *in-situ* employment creation is a must for a stable income and spending. Also, there must be efforts to have an accurate picture of unemployment data in order to have policy that is closer to facts. Fourth, there is a need to reconsider the few distorting reforms that are often stated to revive the short-term chaos in the long run. Finally, the sweet spot created by low oil prices in the past is slowly taking its turn to hit the economy to further cut down aggregate demand.

The occasional dip in growth due to various reasons will slow the pace to achieving a \$5-trillion economy by 2024. This is the right time to execute a slew of doable agricultural reforms as the role of agriculture in reversing the slowdown is immense in the light of its nearly 20% contribution to a \$5-trillion economy. Therefore, a blend of efforts from a range of sectors, agriculture and allied sectors is warranted to enable overall growth.

Naveen P. Singh and Ranjith P.C. are with the ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Open letter

Strange are the ways of the judiciary in India. On the one hand, it is firm about protecting the liberty and freedom of individuals as enshrined in the Constitution of India while on the other, a judicial magistrate passes orders to file a first information report or FIR, against citizens who write to the Prime Minister expressing concern over growing incidents of mob lynching (Page 1, "49 booked for sedition for anti-lynching letter", October 5). The freedom of expression too is a constitutional right and it is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to respond suitably when such open letters are addressed to elected leaders of the state. There is no rhyme or reason why a party member should impound himself as another

representative of the people to seek to defend the Prime Minister. And what a colossal waste of judicial time, apart from the implied directive to the police to act on pursuing the first information report to its logical end. As if our courts are not already burdened with mountains of undisposed cases.

ANAND ARAVAMUDHAN,  
Chennai

■ Every right-thinking Indian will be concerned and perplexed over this appalling and worrisome development. Is the citizen's right to criticise the actions and policies of the government in jeopardy or coming to an end? People should not be faulted if they start asking a crucial question: Where is the nation heading? It would be only in the fitness of things if the Prime Minister himself takes exception to the filing

of the FIR against the celebrities.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,  
Kothamangalam, Kerala

### Significance of Aarey

The Amazon rainforests which are said to be the "lungs of the world" are still burning and almost every country has expressed concern over the consequences of such a loss. In such a compelling situation, the Maharashtra government's move to start felling the trees in Mumbai's Aarey colony to pave the way for a Metro rail project is atrocious ("Aarey in lockdown as trees are felled" (Inside pages, October 6). While no less a person than the Prime Minister has been taking steps to reduce global warming and pushing the idea for a greener earth, it is strange that the government in Maharashtra thinks otherwise when it comes to environmental issues. The

Maharashtra Chief Minister should realise that there are ways to go ahead with the project. In the process the Aarey trees can still be saved.

MANOHAR MUTHUSWAMY,  
Nabawip, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The clarion calls to Indians to be environment-conscious appear to be hackneyed and trite. Some of our leaders are quick to proclaim at international fora that India will be in the forefront to stem climate change. While civil society, NGOs and youngsters try to contribute their mite to preserving nature by responding to such calls, ruling establishments appear to be going their own ways.

R. SRIDHARAN,  
Chennai

■ Of course, politicians are busy campaigning for the Maharashtra Assembly elections and will have no time for "small issues" such

as the felling of thousands of trees.

An ecosystem such as Aarey's takes decades to create and cannot be replanted over night. There are many viable options that experts have suggested. If nothing can be done to save the Aarey trees, why should there even be a "Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change"?

ROMIT CHANDRAKAR,  
Raipur, Chhattisgarh

■ It is disgusting that the government in the name of development is now causing serious ecological damage. Many of us concerned citizens are praying that some good sense will prevail. Despite celebrating World Environment Day every year, the actions of the Maharashtra government are most dismal and robotic.

RAJAN VISWANATH,  
Mumbai

■ Legal size paper  
No doubt "legal size paper" offers a wide range of flexibility and comfort in the compilation of lengthy administrative matters in the judiciary. However, as the present government is ambitious about increasing digital literacy and outreach in the country, it is the right time to shift to e-editions in court administrative affairs ("End use of legal size paper, CJI urged", October 6).

SATEESH REDDY KANAGANTI,  
Nalgonda, Telangana

# Criticism is not sedition

The threat of sedition leads to unauthorised self-censorship and has a chilling effect on free speech



AJIT PRAKASH SHAH

The recent order of a Bihar court directing the filing of an FIR against 49 eminent persons who signed an open letter to the Prime Minister expressing concerns over mob lynching is shocking, disappointing, and completely disregards the true meaning of the law. The FIR was lodged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including sedition, public nuisance, hurting religious feelings, and insulting with intent to provoke breach of peace. But many would agree that the writers of the letter were doing precisely what every citizen ought to do in a democracy – raise questions, debate, disagree, and challenge the powers that be on issues that face the nation.

It is evident that if you take the letter as a whole, leave alone sedition, no criminal offence is made out. Surely, this court decision warrants an urgent and fresh debate on the need to repeal the sedition law, for it has no place in a vibrant democracy.

#### History of the sedition law

A century ago, debates around sedition were about how the British abused it to convict and sentence freedom fighters. Today, unfortunately, Indians face the same question, except that instead of a foreign government, the country's own institutions appear to be misusing the law. This decision strangely coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. The soul of Gandhi's philosophy lay in the right to dissent, which is today being systematically destroyed. Now, anyone, be it university students or civil society activists, who utters even a single critical phrase is instantly targeted, without any introspection on why such criticism was voiced at all.

Sedition laws were enacted in 17th century England, when lawmakers believed that only good opinions of the government should survive, as bad opinions were detrimental to the government and monarchy. This sentiment (and law) was borrowed and inserted into the IPC in 1870.

The law was first used to prose-



TIKAK'S TRIAL FOR SEDITION IN 1908. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

cute Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1897. That case led to Section 124A of the IPC (which deals with sedition) being amended, to add the words "hatred" and "contempt" to "disaffection", which was defined to include disloyalty and feelings of enmity. In 1908, upon conviction for sedition in another case, and imprisonment, Tilak reportedly said, "The government has converted the entire nation into a prison and we are all prisoners." Gandhi, too, was later tried for sedition for his articles in *Young India*, and famously pleaded guilty.

Twice in the Constituent Assembly, some tried to include sedition as a ground for restricting free speech. But this was vehemently (and successfully) opposed for fear that it would be used to crush political dissent.

The Supreme Court highlighted these debates in 1950 in its decisions in *Brij Bhushan v the State of Delhi* and *Romesh Thapar v. the State of Madras*. These decisions prompted the First Constitution Amendment, where Article 19(2) was rewritten to replace "undermining the security of the State" with "in the interest of public order".

However, in Parliament, Jawaharlal Nehru clarified that the related penal provision of Section 124A was "highly objectionable and obnoxious and...[t]he sooner we get rid of it the better."

In 1962, the Supreme Court decid-

ed on the constitutionality of Section 124A in *Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar*. It upheld the constitutionality of sedition, but limited its application to "acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence". It distinguished these from "very strong speech" or the use of "vigorous words" strongly critical of the government.

In 1995, the Supreme Court, in *Balwant Singh v State of Punjab*, acquitted persons from charges of sedition for shouting slogans such as "Khalistan Zindabaad" and "Raj Karega Khalsa" outside a cinema after Indira Gandhi's assassination. Instead of looking at the "tendency" of the words to cause public disorder, the Court held that mere sloganising which evoked no public response did not amount to sedition, for which a more overt act was required; the accused did not intend to "incite people to create disorder" and no "law and order problem" actually occurred.

This same lens must be used to examine the present letter. The law and its application clearly distinguishes between strong criticism of the government and incitement of violence. Even if the letter is considered hateful, or contemptuous and disdainful of the government, if it did not incite violence, it is not seditious. Unfortunately, Indian courts have, especially recently, repeatedly failed

to appreciate this distinction.

The broad scope of Section 124A means that the state can use it to chase those who challenge its power, and the mere pressing of sedition charges ends up acting as a deterrent against any voice of dissent or criticism.

#### Challenging the law

Even the threat of sedition leads to a sort of unauthorised self-censorship, for it produces a chilling effect on free speech. This misuse must be stopped by removing the power source itself. The law must go, as has happened in the U.K. already. No government will give up this power easily, and logically, one would turn to the courts for help. Unfortunately, although I have been part of it, the judiciary seems less and less of a protector of our rights, having let us down on civil liberties often lately. Arguably, it is time for the people, for civil society, to challenge the law directly. There needs to be a concentrated movement from the ground up. What form such a direct challenge should take cannot be said, but we must protect our right to dissent as fiercely as we protect our right to live. If we fail to do so, our existence as a proudly democratic nation is at risk.

Ajit Prakash Shah is a former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and Chairman of the 20th Law Commission of India

# Acts of violence, acts of grace

During Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary year, India has an opportunity to show its humane side

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

Since Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on January 30, 1948, the world has witnessed some horrific instances of mass violence as well as a few remarkable acts of contrition, for-giveness and grace.

First, consider the inhumanities inflicted on people. The 1958-1961 famine during Chairman Mao Zedong's time killed 20-40 million, according to some estimates, in the People's Republic of China. The 1971 campaign of the Pakistani Army in East Pakistan resulted in the deaths of an estimated three million Bengalis. The Cambodian genocide (1975-79) saw two million Cambodians killed. And the mass killings of 1994 in Rwanda left a million Tutsis dead.

**Forgiveness and compassion**  
In almost the same period the world also witnessed some stunning instances of mankind's more forgiving and compassionate side. The Indian Constitution was framed at a period of intense religious polarisation and the assassination of Gandhi. The founding document of the Indian Republic turned India's back on religious divisions at a time when that looked impossible, while giving a leg up to the historically wronged. Similarly, South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up in 1996, ensured the country's bloodless transition to popular democracy by giving a voice to both the victims and perpetrators of apartheid.

The German acceptance of responsibility for crimes against the Jews was no less impressive. In a prominent part of Berlin, in a space spread across 200,000 sq ft, one can 'experience' the world's largest and most powerful monument to national penitence. Opened in 2005, the German memorial to the Jewish dead resembles a vast graveyard of unburied coffins – a reminder to all Germans of the crimes perpetrated against the Jews by their ancestors. That the German government supported this vast memorialisation is unique in history and a logical culmi-

nation of an exceptional act of repenance by a head of state.

After laying a wreath at a memorial at the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw on December 7, 1970, German Chancellor Willy Brandt, in a typically Gandhian gesture, spontaneously got down on his knees for half a minute. In that moment of atonement he unreservedly assumed responsibility for the Holocaust and lifted a terrible burden off Germany's shoulders. Brandt's 'Warsaw genuflection' led to the memorial in Berlin and contributed years later to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's magnanimous 2015 gesture allowing a million refugees, fleeing lands overrun by the Islamic State, into Germany. Ms. Merkel's decision, taken in the face of a Europe hit by multiple attacks by Islamic militants and steeped in Islamophobia, ranks as the most courageous humanitarian decision any leader has ever taken.

**Missed chances**  
However, there were missed chances too. Presented with an opportunity to stand up for the Rohingya, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi has chosen to prevaricate and even justify their persecution in her country. Neighbouring countries, such as India, are also turning their backs on the Rohingya refugees.

The biggest tragedy is unfolding in India. The ham-handed application of the National Register of Citizens in Assam is forcing hundreds of thousands into internment camps indefinitely with no hope of repatriation to Bangladesh from where they are said to have fled many years ago. Now there is the threat of the NRC being extended across the country. India has an opportunity to end this farce by giving citizenship to all those identified as foreigners everywhere, if required by proportionately assigning them to all states of the Union for voting rights. In the 150th year of Gandhi's birth anniversary it even has the right occasion to show such grace.

Uday Balakrishnan teaches at IISc, Bengaluru



#### DATA POINT

#### Stress signals

Only a few declared indicators of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank (PMC) signalled bank failure, before the RBI placed restrictions on the bank. A closer look at PMC's lending portfolio might have highlighted the trouble earlier

**CAPITAL POSITION** | A key indicator of a bank's health is its capital position, especially its capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) that measures the bank's exposure to riskier loans. The RBI has mandated that banks must maintain CRAR > 9%. Among the 54 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), three had a negative CRAR. Among the rest, except for one bank (shown in the graph), the others had a CRAR above the mandated limit

**Profitability** | Bank profitability, another key indicator, is gauged by measuring a bank's Return on Assets (net income by total assets). An RoA of >1% is considered good. PMC had an RoA of a decent 0.89% as of March 31, 2018. Six of the 54 UCBs had a negative RoA (not seen in graph), while 33 of them had RoA between 0 and 1%. As of March 31, 2019, PMC's RoA fell to 0.75%, a sharp but not an alarming drop

**PMC bank**

Return on Assets as of March 31, 2018 (%)

1% mark

As of March 31, 2018, 21.2% of UCBs had an A-rating (highest). PMC was one of them

**ONE AMONG THE BEST** | The central bank measures the financial robustness of UCBs using a ratings system which takes into account indicators such as CRAR; net NPAs to total advances; RoAs; liquid-assets to total-assets; and cost to income

Graph shows % of UCBs under RBI ratings A/B/C/D (in decreasing order of performance) in 2018

As of March 2018, 21.2% of UCBs had an A-rating (highest). PMC was one of them

**ASSET QUALITY WORSENED** | The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of PMC suddenly peaked in March 31, 2019. It rose to 3.79%, a level not seen in the past decade. The GNPA are essentially bad loans which the borrower is not in a position to repay at the moment. The banks are forced to set aside a part of their profits as "provisions", a reason why RoA dropped in 2019

GNPA of PMC

0.84% 3.79%

2012 2014 2016 2018

**A CHANGE IN LENDING PORTFOLIO** | The PMC's credit portfolio changed dramatically over the last two years. Until 2015, more than 40% of its loans were provided to priority sectors such as agriculture, MSME, education and housing. But after that it reduced and was just over 15% in 2019

% of loans given to priority sector

41.96% 15.06%

2012 2014 2016 2018

**LAST WORD** | The PMC's vital indicators did not point to major trouble until the RBI placed restrictions. A hard look at a surge in bad loans combined with a quick shift towards non-priority sectors could have provided an early hint of the problem

Compiled by Vignesh Radhakrishnan; Source: RBI reports, notifications and statistical returns; and PMC bank's annual reports

#### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Dialogue to bridge divides

Two editorial meetings a month will be opened up to readers in order to expand conversations and build trust



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

world are countered in these encounters, sometimes to the full satisfaction and sometimes to the partial satisfaction of the participants.

#### Explaining the craft of journalism

A weekly section called 'Notebook', which is published on the op-ed page, is an attempt by journalists to explain their work; write about the challenges they face, the ethics that govern their work, their dilemmas and their vulnerabilities; and, above all, talk of the sense of satisfaction of informing people. This section resonates well with the readers as reporters display their humility and frailty. It fails to touch minds and hearts the moment journalists begin to pontificate.

Sobhana K. Nair, in "Turning the tables: when respondents ask reporters questions" (July 7, 2019), writes about a dilemma that journalists grapple with during election time. Some of the questions she poses in that short piece are reflective of our troubled times. Ramya Kannan's recollection, "That one phone call" (March 15, 2017), is a poignant reminder that there is a human element in the interactions between journalists and citizens; such relationships cannot be treated as purely cold, professional exchanges of information. Mohit M. Rao's "Covering a tragedy with empathy" (February 19, 2019) explores the tricky question of how to cover tragedies. He asks some pressing questions that haunt responsible journalists: "When does the quest for details become an intrusion into moments of grief? How do we move beyond basic facts and provide a human face to a tragedy in a sensitive manner?" In a sense, 'Notebook' exemplifies the newspaper's commitment to transparency and explains the craft of journalism to our readers.

#### A new initiative

Moving beyond Open Houses and the 'Notebook' section, the Editor of this newspaper has decided to open up two crucial daily meetings a month to our readers. The first will be the noon editorial meeting during which senior editors discuss the important issues for the day. The second will be the evening news meeting during which they decide what to publish that day and how. From this November, on the first Tuesday of the month, five readers will be invited to attend the noon meeting and five to the evening meeting. Since the idea is to break out of the comfort zone, the Readers' Editor's office will ensure that readers who are sceptical about the newspaper's editorial processes are part of this dialogue.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1969

Pakistan's 'musical chairs' diplomacy

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly last week, the leader of the Pakistan delegation claimed with considerable pride that his country was perhaps the only one at present with the unique distinction of having friendly relations with the United States, the Soviet Union and China, without prejudice to its basic national interest. No other country, whether Communist or non-Communist, aligned or non-aligned, has been able to score this hat-trick in present-day international diplomacy. And with all its lofty ideals and passionate faith in peaceful co-existence, India could not perform such a balancing act even during the heyday of Panch Sheel. With elemental commonsense and outright opportunism, Pakistan has been able to play one Big Power against another to extract the maximum benefit to itself by taking full advantage of the changing power patterns on the international scene. Both Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan have practised the art of double-think, double-talk and double-dealing with consummate skill – and with a calculated display of recklessness to bamboozle their friends and foes alike. For the time being, at any rate, this "musical chairs" diplomacy seems to be paying quite good dividends to Pakistan with Washington, Moscow and Peking openly competing for its friendship.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1919.

Mr. Gandhi's Papers

Bombay, October 7. – The Office of the weekly paper "Young India" edited by Mr. M.K. Gandhi has been transferred from Bombay to Ahmedabad City. A press has been purchased at Ahmedabad where Mr. Gandhi's new Gujrati weekly paper "Navajivan" and also the "Young India" will be printed. Before the District Magistrate of Ahmedabad Mr. Shankarlal, banker, declared himself as keeper of the press and printer and Messrs. Indulal Yajnik and Mahadev H. Desai as publisher of the "Navajivan" and "Young India" respectively. The Magistrate has dispensed with security in each case. Mr. Gandhi writes in the "Navajivan" thanking for messages of congratulations he received from all quarters on his birthday. He would have been pleased, he says, if the money spent on letters and telegrams were devoted towards purchasing cloth for the indigent and feeding the poor. He says he appreciated discriminating and wise affection and not blind affection.

FROM PAGE ONE

## NC team meets Farooq for first time since detention



Farooq Abdullah and his wife seen before meeting party colleagues at his residence in Srinagar. ■ AFP

The delegation then drove to Mr. Farooq's residence. He was earlier in preventive custody but later detained under the Public Safety Act.

Mr. Farooq, with wife Molly by his side, showed the victory sign and waved to the media as the NC leaders met him.

"We are happy they are both well and in high spirits. Of course, they are pained and anguished about the developments, particularly the lockdown of the people," NC's Jammu chief Dauder Singh Rana, who led the delegation, said.

## Dhaka says it's reassured by Modi's briefing

Mr. Rizvi said the final NRC would only be completed after all legal appeals had been concluded in court, and that point was "far from here."

Significantly, he said that after the process was completed, Bangladesh was prepared to study cases of Bangladeshi-origin migrants "individually", and take them back if the claims were verified. Ms. Hasina herself raised the fate of the 1.9 million non-nationals in the conversation, said Mr. Rizvi, because of misgivings over media reports on the government's plans.

Mr. Modi and Ms. Hasina

had met for over an hour on Saturday at Hyderabad House in Delhi, discussing agreements on energy, water, coastal surveillance and a series of measures to improve trade infrastructure.

According to Mr. Rizvi, she suggested special economic zones where Indian companies could invest, use Bangladeshi land and labour to produce for the Indian market and export it back duty-free. The two sides are also talking about regional Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal road connectivity and a Bhutan-India-Bangladesh regional energy supply arrangement.

## Agra orphanage sealed after inmate alleges gangrape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGRA

The administration here on Sunday sealed an orphanage and booked its management citing irregularities, days after an inmate alleged that she was raped by three men inside the premises, officials said.

Chief Development Officer J. Reeba said the sealing process was started around 7 p.m. and a case was registered against the management of the orphanage. She said 28 boys have been moved to a children's shelter home in Shahganj here while three of the 10 girls were shifted to 'Aasha Jyoti Kendra'. The younger girls

have been moved to the Shahganj children's shelter home, the CDO said.

A 16-year-old inmate had jumped off the terrace of the orphanage into the river Yamuna on October 3. The locals rescued her. She had alleged that she was gang-raped inside the orphanage. A case was registered at the Itimad-ud-Daula police station and the three accused were sent to jail.

After the report surfaced, State Commission for Women vice-chairperson Sushma Singh inspected the orphanage. During the inspection, empty bear bottles and used condoms were found.

## BSF pilot who was facing inquiry quits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A former IAF Wing Commander, who is being probed for allegedly impersonating his superior officer in a bid to pilot for Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has resigned from the air wing of the Border Security Force (BSF), officials said on Sunday.

The resignation of Wing Commander (Retd) J S Sangwan, however, has not yet been accepted.

The Kargil War hero is under investigation for impersonating and misrepresenting a superior officer in a bid to fly Shah's aircraft, an official said.

It is not immediately known whether Sangwan's resignation will be accepted as acceptance means allowing him to leave without facing any inquiry. Under the norms, petitions for resignation are not accepted if the person is facing an inquiry.

## Amit Shah is targeting Muslims through NRC: Maulana Madani

His comments generate hatred and promote enmity'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's call for implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in India is discriminatory and will give opportunity to forces that are hostile to the nation, Maulana Mahmood Madani, head of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (JUH), says.

Reacting to Mr. Shah's speech in Kolkata on October 1, the leader of the largest group of Islamic scholars and ulema said it was a sign that Muslims would be sent to detention camps of Assam.

**Pan-India NRC** "Madani clarified that there is no issue if NRC is conducted across India. But it appears from the tone and tenor of the Home Minister that he is targeting Muslims. Such an attitude will gener-

## Fadnavis tightens grip on Maharashtra BJP

The CM sidelined several bigwigs whose relations with him had soured of late, without the high command backing him

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

The big mystery of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance – how many seats each party will get and who will get more – may have shifted focus from the clout of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the Maharashtra unit of the BJP. Last week, however, as some spurts of rebellion arose in the Mumbai unit following the finalisation of some city seats, the true extent of Mr. Fadnavis' dominance of the party in his State, a five-year project, was revealed.

The list of candidates released by the Maharashtra BJP saw the sidelining of several bigwigs, many of whose relations with Mr. Fadnavis had soured of late. The fact that the high command in Delhi backed him fully on the list, though some of

those replaced (like Ghatkopar MLA Prakash Mehta) are considered close to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, is significant.

## Eased out

One of the biggest names to be excluded was Education Minister Vinod Tawde, who was denied ticket from Borivali, one of the safest seats for the BJP. Relations between Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Tawde have not exactly been rosy since 2014, when the former became a surprise choice of Chief Minister. The seat was given to Sunil Rane, considered close to both Mr. Fadnavis and Union Roads and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, ensuring that the latter too provided support to the candidate, in the face of obvious hurt feeling among Mr. Tawde's supporters.



Holding fort: Devendra Fadnavis has decisively stamped his authority on the Maharashtra BJP. ■ VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

Within Mumbai, the choices for Colaba (replacing sitting MLA and local strongman Raj Purohit with Nationalist Congress Party turncoat Rahul Narvekar) and Ghatkopar East (replacing veteran

Prakash Mehta with Parag Shah) were decisions that led to much heartburn and even some acts of violence by supporters of Mr. Mehta.

Mr. Rajpurohit, considered a strong leader with

his origins in Rajasthan, had embarrassed the Fadnavis government with certain utterances. His replacement with Mr. Narvekar, who has only recently joined the BJP from the NCP, however, was the blow that hurt the most, according to his supporters.

BJP sources, however, say Mr. Narvekar is the perfect replacement not just because his brother Makarand Narvekar is a BJP corporator but more importantly because he is the son-in-law of Ramraje Naik Nimalkar, senior NCP leader and Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Nimalkar is one of the biggest supporters for [NCP leader] Sharad Pawar, and this move has neutralised an aggressive NCP move on that seat," a BJP source said.

In Mr. Mehta's case, it was

a relationship that began on a promising note with Mr. Fadnavis being helped by the former to move into the late Gopinath Munde's turf, turning sour after 2016-17 when certain corruption allegations were levelled against Mr. Mehta who was Housing Minister. Considered a strong leader among the city's Gujarati community, he has been replaced by young gun Parag Shah.

The most tricky replacement was that of Jalgaon strongman Eknath Khadse, who was placated after ticket was given to his daughter, Rohini Khadse-Khewalkar, instead.

In one fell swoop, there has been a generational and factional shift in the Maharashtra BJP. Mr. Fadnavis has stamped his authority on the Maharashtra BJP.

## Cong. promises loan waiver in Haryana

CM to be selected after the election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Congress will announce a loan waiver for the poor and farmers in the State if voted to power, Haryana party unit chief Kumari Selja has said.

In an interview, she said the Congress would not announce its chief ministerial candidate ahead of the election, and the party high command would decide after the polls.

The State Congress chief said the loan waiver promise would be part of the manifesto for the October 21 Haryana Assembly election.

The manifesto committee has submitted its report and final touches were being given to it, she said.

"When our government comes to power, we will waive loans of the poor, especially people who take small loans. We are also going to write off the loans of farmers who are being pushed to a corner and are suffering under the BJP government," she said.

The Haryana Congress chief said the loan waiver would be implemented within days of assuming power as has been done in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

"We will carry out our promises within days and weeks of coming to power. We will give timelines. We will see to it that people see the difference between us and others who only make tall claims and believe in mere publicity and headline management," she said.

"Budget-making is essentially a team exercise," the circular, signed by the Joint Secretary (Budget) said.



We will see to it that people see the difference between us and others who only make tall claims

KUMARI SELJA  
Haryana Congress chief

in fulfilling its poll promises "unlike the BJP", which only used these to "mislead" the voters. "The dilution of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir is another tool the BJP is using to fool people," she said.

Asked to comment on Tanwar's resignation and his allegations on the Congress being the anti-thesis of democracy, Ms. Selja said,

"The Congress has seen such rebellions in the past and has always come out stronger due to its inherent strengths. The Congress has the resilience to take on these things."

She refrained from making comments on her predecessor, and said the party had appealed to everyone to work together.

Ashok Tanwar was named a star campaigner for Haryana. Now, he has chosen to resign. That is his decision. But we must all remember one thing. Organisations are bigger than people," Ms. Selja said.

## Budget work to start on October 14

Ministries asked to submit data and ensure correctness of figures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry will start its pre-Budget work from October 14 onwards, according to a circular it sent to all Ministries and Departments.

The other Ministries will have to prepare and send their budgets, expenditure trends, and non-tax revenue estimates for 2020-21 by October 9 to the Finance Ministry. Following this, the Finance Ministry will hold separate meetings with all the other Ministries, from October 14 to the first week of November.



"All data shall be submitted on Union Budget Information System (UBIS) portal," the circular said. "The Statement of Budget Esti-

mates (SBE) and the Demand for Grants (DG), inter alia, shall be generated from the UBIS. Hence, the correctness of the figures must be ensured. The pre-budget/RE meetings will begin on the October 14, 2019."

The meetings of the Ministries and Departments with the Expenditure Secretary will involve discussions on the total funds required for various programmes and schemes, along with receipts of the Departments.

All the Ministries and Departments will also be required to submit details of all the autonomous bodies for

which a dedicated corpus fund has been created, indicating the purpose, accumulated balances as on March 31, 2019, annual expenditure for the last three years, and allocations made during the current financial year.

The reasons for their continuance should be explained and why the same should not be wound up and requirements of the autonomous body met through grant-in-aid," the circular said.

"Budget-making is essentially a team exercise," the circular, signed by the Joint Secretary (Budget) said.

## Giriraj fires fresh salvo at Nitish govt., JD(U) hits back

Twitter war over Bihar flood situation hots up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA

A "Twitter war" erupted between Union Minister Giriraj Singh and the ruling JD(U) on Sunday, as the firebrand BJP leader continued with his barbs at the Bihar government.

Mr. Singh, who has been repeatedly criticising the Bihar government for its "inept" handling of waterlogging in several parts of Patna following heavy rainfall, sought the forgiveness of 'Sanatanis' (devout) Hindus for the adverse impact of the "man-made" disaster on Durga Puja festivities.

**Seek apology** "The Durga Puja festivities have commenced from today. On behalf of the NDA, I seek an apology from the 'Sanatanis' living in those areas where puja, pandal and mela could not be or-



Giriraj Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO

ganised because of floods," he tweeted.

JD(U) spokesman Sanjay Singh shot back with a flurry of tweets, saying Mr. Giriraj should apologise to the people of Bihar for having done "nothing" for them in the capacity of a Union Minister. "You are known for nothing except stoking controversies by your utterances."

In another tweet, the JD(U) spokesman said, "Mr. Giriraj, as the Union Minister for animal husbandry, your concern for animals must be

greater than for humans... At least you should have cared for the well-being of animals. When will you realise what are your responsibilities?"

Sanjay Singh, JD(U) national general secretary and the State Minister for water resources department, came out with his riposte without mentioning by name Mr. Giriraj, whose frequent attacks on the Nitish Kumar government has left the party fuming.

Sharing a quote by Hollywood actor Clint Eastwood – "When you are young, you are reckless, then you get conservative, then you get reckless again" – on his Twitter handle, Mr. Jha added, "Don't know why, but some senior leaders' remarks on Bihar floods compel me to trace merit in the above quote! Please cooperate, don't cause cacophony."

## IN BRIEF



Phoolan Devi's sister joins Samajwadi Party

LUCKNOW Rukmani Devi Nishad, sister of late Phoolan Devi, on Sunday joined the Samajwadi Party in the presence of party chief Akhilesh Yadav. On joining the party, Rukmani said that she feels like coming home. Besides her, Ramakant Yadav also joined the Samajwadi Party. ANI

## Finance Minister to inaugurate NeAC

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Monday inaugurate the IT Department's National E-assessment Centre (NeAC), which will reduce face-to-face interaction between taxpayers and tax officials. The setting up of NeAC is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India' and promotion of ease of doing business, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. PTI



Maulana Madani has called the comments improper and discriminatory.

He said, "All infiltrators will be thrown out." His comments came up during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Delhi which ended on Sunday.

Mr. Madani said the comments were both "improper" and "discriminatory".

He said distinction and discrimination on the basis of religion contradicts fundamental rights as enshrined in Articles 14 to 15 of the Constitution and would violate international norms recognised by the United Nations.

"It seems that only Muslims will be kept in detention camps in Assam," said Maulana Madani. "If happens so, then it will bring bad name for the nation at the international level and will become a tool in the hands of the inimical forces who are bent on tarnishing the image of the country," he added.

# Centre 'in the dark' on detentions, curbs

To an RTI query, Home Ministry says it has no info and directs applicant to the J&K administration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Home Ministry does not have information on any orders passed to block telecommunications and Internet, suspend radio and satellite television services, evacuate tourists and detain political leaders and activists in Jammu and Kashmir in August. The Ministry says it has no information on the names and locations of the detainees, and directed any queries to the State administration.

In response to a recent Right to Information request to share copies of such orders, directions or advisories, two Central public information officers of the Ministry's J&K division said the information was not available with them.

The Ministry said, "The information might be available with the State government of J&K."



**Out in the open:** Security personnel outside the residence-turned-jail of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Sunday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

However, the RTI application could not be forwarded to the J&K government as the RTI Act, 2005 is not applicable in the State, said the response.

According to it, a separate application could be filed under the State's RTI law. This option is only available to the State's residents.

A senior official in the J&K

government said Central laws, including the RTI Act, 2005, would come into effect in J&K only when it became a Union Territory on October 31.

Venkatesh Nayak, the activist who filed the RTI request, noted that the State of J&K had been under President's Rule since December 19, 2018 and how was it pos-

sible that the Home Ministry did not have information on orders imposing travel and telecom restrictions.

"Any order imposing curbs on travel and telecommunications will at least be copied to the Union Home Ministry in which the J&K Division is housed, if not actually directed by the MHA. So the CPIOs' replies that

## J&K police arrest Jaish operative

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Jammu and Kashmir police arrested the third member of a newly formed Jaish-e-Mohammed module that was raised to carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla district of North Kashmir. The alleged terrorist identified as Mohsin Manzoor Salhea is a resident of old town Baramulla.

One of the members of the group was killed in an encounter with security forces in August, days after the revocation of Article 370.

## Kashmir situation normal: Minister

Prakash Javadekar says people of J&K are happy with dilution of Article 370

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is "normal" and the people are "happy" with the dilution of Article 370 as they will now get benefits and entitlements on a par with those in the rest of the country, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has said.

In an interaction with PTI, he said there were no restrictions on the media, and all newspapers were being published in the Kashmir Valley. He rejected the Opposition's charge that the BJP was using the withdrawal of

**PRakash Javadekar**  
The Home Minister gave a list of laws that did not apply to Kashmir, but are now. People are getting the benefits; therefore, they are happy. All government schemes are now operational in the Valley



Jammu and Kashmir's special status as a plank in the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections. "[The dilution of] Article 370 has caught the imagination of people. The people are wel-

coming it all over the country," he said. Mr. Javadekar said the people in the State would now get the benefits of all government schemes not available to them earlier. Under the special status, the

"The Home Minister gave a list of 126 laws that did not apply to Kashmir, but are now applicable. People are getting the benefits; therefore, they are happy. All the Union government's schemes are now operational in the Valley," he said.

State had the right to take decisions, on its own, in several important areas, except for defence, communications and foreign affairs.

"Under the Right to Education, 25% of the students from the economically weaker sections get admission. It was not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

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# Second whistleblower emerges in Trump probe

Lawyer says his team represents multiple informants in connection to the complaint filed over President's Ukraine call

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

A second whistleblower has come forward about President Donald Trump's attempts to get the Ukrainian President to investigate a political rival, lawyers for the informant said on Sunday.

Lawyer Mark Zaid said the person, also an intelligence official, has first-hand knowledge of some of the allegations involving the initial whistleblower complaint, which triggered impeachment proceedings against the Republican President.

The emergence of a second protected witness complicates efforts by Mr. Trump and his Republican supporters to dismiss the complaint as politically motivated hearsay and may strengthen the Democrats' case against him.

The complaint, filed with the inspector general on August 12, cited information received from half a dozen U.S.

officials expressing concern that Mr. Trump was using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country as he seeks re-election in 2020.

It also alleged that Mr. Trump leveraged \$400 million in aid to secure a promise from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate a Democratic rival, former Vice-President Joe Biden, and his son Hunter Biden, who sat on the board of a Ukrainian energy company.

"I can confirm that my firm and my team represent multiple whistleblowers in connection to the underlying August 12, 2019, disclosure to the Intelligence Community Inspector General," Andrew Bakaj, a second lawyer, said on Twitter. Mr. Bakaj declined further comment.

Mr. Zaid said the whistleblower had spoken with the inspector general as part of



Double trouble: Donald Trump in Washington. • AFP/FILE

an initial examination of the whistleblower complaint. An interview with the inspector general affords protection against reprisal.

#### Discontent within

Confirmation of another whistleblower followed stirrings of discontent within Mr. Trump's own Republican Party after he called on Beij-

ing on Friday to investigate Mr. Biden's son, who had business dealings in China.

Republican U.S. Senators Mitt Romney, Ben Sasse and Susan Collins have expressed concerns about Mr. Trump reaching out to foreign countries to help him in his 2020 re-election bid.

However, other Republicans stood firmly in support

of Mr. Trump, echoing the President's insistence that there was nothing wrong with his Ukraine call and dismissing his entreaty to China as a joke, even though Mr. Trump continues to raise the issue. "I doubt if the China comment was serious to tell you the truth," U.S. Senator Roy Blunt, a Republican member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said.

Mr. Trump has alleged that Hunter Biden profited in his business dealings in both Ukraine and China from his father's position, although there has been no evidence of any wrongdoing. "The Biden family was PAID OFF, pure and simple!" Mr. Trump tweeted on Sunday.

The President also railed against the "do-nothing" Democrats' impeachment with a string of retweets from supporters, touting his high approval ratings among Republicans.

The call with Mr. Zelensky, a summary of which was released by the White House, and the whistleblower complaint prompted House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi to launch an impeachment inquiry on September 24. Mr. Trump's attempts to solicit foreign interference threatened national security, she said.

#### 'No quid pro quo'

Democrats said any finding that Mr. Trump withheld taxpayer money, already approved by Congress to help Ukraine fight Russian aggression, in exchange for a favour from Mr. Zelensky would strengthen the case against him.

Mr. Trump has maintained there was no "quid pro quo" in his request of the Ukrainian President, but text messages released by committees leading the inquiry have shown otherwise.

## No talks unless U.S. stops hostile policies: N. Korea

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

North Korea said on Sunday it has "no intention" to continue nuclear talks unless the U.S. takes steps to end hostilities, a day after negotiations in Sweden broke down.

The discussions in Sweden followed months of stalemate following a February meeting between the North's leader Kim Jong-un and President Donald Trump, and came after Pyongyang's defiant test of a sea-launched ballistic missile on Wednesday.

The North walked away from the Sweden talks, saying it was disappointed at

the lack of "new and creative" solutions offered by Washington, although the U.S. insisted it was willing to meet again in two weeks.

But a spokesman for North's Foreign Ministry said Washington's claims about another meeting was "ungrounded".

"We have no intention to hold such sickening negotiations as what happened this time before the U.S. takes a substantial step to make complete and irreversible withdrawal of the hostile policy toward the DPRK," he said. "The fate of future talks depend on the U.S. attitude, and the end of this year is its deadline".

## U.K. signals it could soften Brexit stand

EU leaders are piling pressure on PM Boris Johnson to revise the exit plan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Britain hinted on Sunday that it could be open to changes to its latest Brexit proposals for Northern Ireland, as European leaders piled pressure on Prime Minister Boris Johnson to revise the plans.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay reiterated that the ideas formally submitted to Brussels this week were "a broad landing zone" to be discussed during "intense negotiations in the coming days".

He urged the bloc to show "creativity and flexibility" to secure a deal ahead of October 31 — when Mr. Johnson

has vowed Britain will end its 46 years of EU membership with or without an agreement.

"We've set out very serious proposals, including compromise on our side," Mr. Barclay told the BBC.

"We do need to get into the intensive negotiations on the text to clarify what the deal is."

Mr. Barclay added the government was considering holding a parliamentary vote ahead of a make-or-break EU summit on October 17-18 to show bloc leaders that Mr. Johnson's plans have MPs' support.

But European leaders, who have reacted tepidly to

the propositions and urged London to offer a revised, viable way forward, are yet to agree even to ramp up negotiations.

Brussels reportedly balked at Britain's request to keep initial discussions on the proposals going through

the weekend.

The EU instead want re-worked plans submitted by the end of the week, with time running out ahead of the summit.

Brussels has said the plans "do not provide a basis for concluding an agreement".

Mr. Barclay, who will travel to Amsterdam later Sunday for Brexit talks, hinted that Britain could be willing to consider alternative ways of meeting its aims. "We're ready to work on that," he said.

Ireland's leader Leo Varadkar said on Saturday there is "plenty of time" for U.K. to put forward alternatives.

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## + Pope urges action to save Amazon

He asks Bishops to find ways to better care for native people

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis urged bishops on Sunday to boldly shake up the status quo as they chart ways to better care for the Amazon and its indigenous people amid threats from forest fires, development and what he called ideological "ashes of fear."

Pope Francis opened a three-week meeting on preserving the rainforest and ministering to its native people as he fended off attacks from conservatives who are opposed to his ecological agenda.

Among the most contentious proposals on the agenda is whether married elders could be ordained priests to address the chronic priest shortages in the region.

Currently indigenous Catholics in remote parts of the Amazon can go months without seeing a priest or having a proper Mass. Another proposal calls for the Catholic church to identify new "official ministries" for women, though organizers have made it clear that priestly ordination is off the table.

Pope Francis' conservative critics, including a handful of cardinals, have called the proposals "heretical".

## 104 people killed in Iraq violence

REUTERS  
BAGHDAD

At least eight people were killed and 25 wounded in fresh clashes between protesters and police in eastern Baghdad on Sunday, police and medical sources said.

The clashes took the death toll to 104 in less than a week of protests over corruption and unemployment.

Police, backed by the army, used live rounds and tear gas to disperse the crowds at two separate locations in Sadr City.

The protests pose the biggest security and political challenge for Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi's government since it took power a year ago.

## As Portugal votes, ruling Socialists seen as favourites

PM Antonio Costa likely to need support to form govt.

REUTERS  
LISBON

Portugal began voting on Sunday in an election that Prime Minister Antonio Costa's Socialists are expected to win without an outright majority, leaving the fate of potential allies as the main question.

Opinion polls indicate the Socialists will come top with between 36.5% and 38.8% of the vote but will need one or more parties to back them to stay in government. Mr. Costa's minority government has been backed by two far-left parties since 2015.

Mr. Costa's government has been praised by Brussels

and at home for combining fiscal discipline with measures to promote growth after recession during 2010-14 debt crisis.

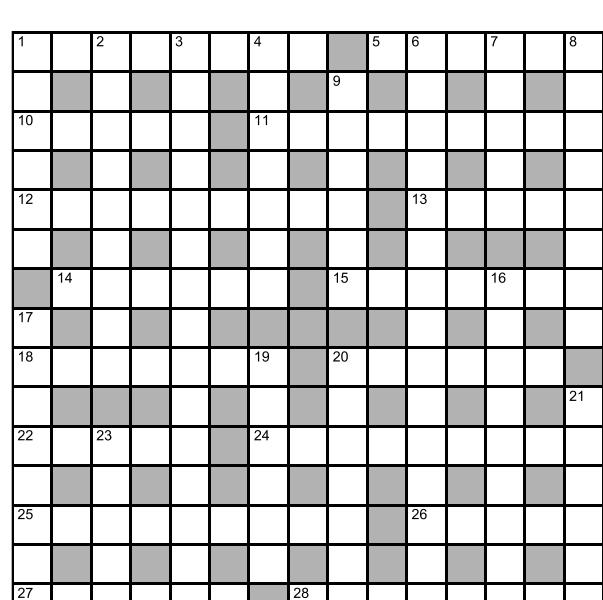
"I'm voting for Costa again. He's done well for us," Fatima Abreu, 81, said.

But after a series of scandals, from a nepotism row to the alleged involvement of a former Minister in an Army cover-up of the theft of weapons from a military base, other voters said it was time for a change.

"The last four years weren't great for me. It is the same as it was in 2009 during the crisis," said Adriano Macedo, 66, who voted for the centre-right Social Democrats (PSD), the main opposition party.

The PSD is polling at under 30% and is expected to lose seats, while the Socialists are seen winning more than in 2015.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12749



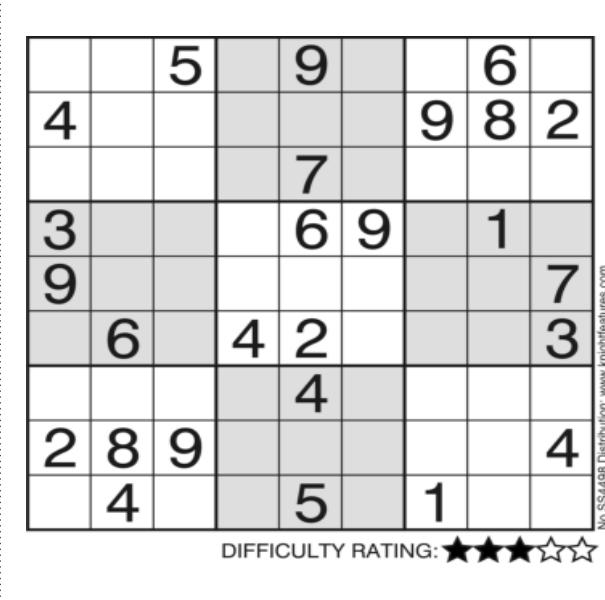
### ACROSS

- What police might triumphantly announce after jailbreak to astonish? (8)
- Stop drunkard tackling club champion (6)
- Bishop's hat and shirt found in swamp (5)
- Traditional group welcomes groom with garland initially (5-4)

(set by Dr. X)

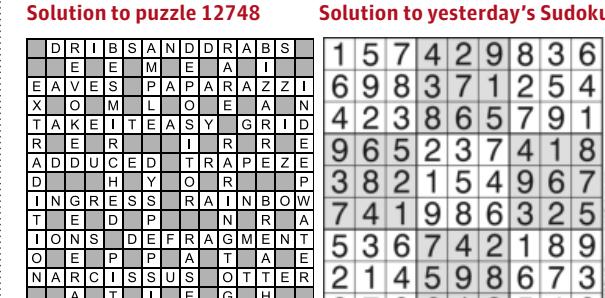
- Make brutal insult and start to assault rebel (9)
- Accepted retrogressive proposal to stifle Left impulsively (2-3)
- Chaos resulting from gold found in pile (6)
- Bob in need takes partners back (7)
- Falsify one detailed report in extremes of deceit (7)
- Plan is certain to secure victory? Yes (6)
- Run into a fight or bolt (5)
- British athlete playing tennis in club (9)
- Riotous rush to enter bar on time (9)
- Possible cure to tackle large abscess (5)
- Refuse to entertain husband's crush (6)
- Craftily manage to adopt extremely powerful strategy (4,4)
- Get hold of boy replacing daughter in pantomime (4,2)
- Scandalous, harmful nonsense put up for vote (9)
- Ready to start fishing perhaps and give oneself problems (4,1,3,2,5)
- Desperate desire to pursue primarily nubile nymphs (7)
- Fool breaking sculpture of erotic guru makes a bad impression (4,1,4,6)
- Strong woven fabric of woman in farm (5)
- Inebriated, cheat around with heartily raunchy noble (8)
- Degenerate Republican ignored issue (6)
- Suspicious jerk found in seedy places (9)
- Holding hand – it is subtly romantic (8)
- Puts forward rumours about bachelor (6)
- American singer held by cops in a transgression (7)
- Boring to supervise rehearsal (3,3)
- Vertical pipe in tower is eroded (5)

## SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12749      Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



## FAITH

### Satyam and dharma

Good and evil are very much part of everyone's life and world. But one should guard against the perception that if the evil trends in the world are corrected, automatically people will find peace of mind and happiness. In a discourse, Swami Omkarananda drew attention to the fact that only when the unsteady human mind builds a firewall against the external world, it can correct its outlook and perceptions. For, in one sense, whatever evil is perceived in the world is a reflection of the ill thoughts in the individual mind. In reality, the external world is only the form of God and if the mind accepts this truth, it can gain peace. To a mind steeped in worldly desires where is the chance to feel peace? When there is no attempt to think of the atma within, there is no possibility to strive for higher values and ennobling character that can contribute to peace of mind? Without peace, where is joy and bliss, asks the Gita.

If the senses are not controlled, there is no chance to engage in atma tattva vichara leading to atma dyana and to atma swaroopa jnana. One thus incurs all these spiritual losses. The Vedas guide the diffident disciple who asks if it is at all possible to cross evil and reach the shores of Truth. The Vedas say it is possible. By practising 'akrodha', which is to abstain from getting angry, one has to overcome anger. By practising acts of charity, 'dharma', one can cross the tendency to be selfish. Many prayers in the Vedas invoke the Almighty to help one tread in the path of satyam and dharma. The motto 'Satyam Vada, Dharmam chara' holds the essence of every man's upright behaviour. The Vedas also speak of Satyam and Ritam. If Satyam is truth, Ritam is the way to remain truthful. Together they imply truthfulness in thought, word and deed.

## ELSEWHERE



### Israel unveils remains of 5,000-year-old city

HADERA  
Israeli archaeologists on Sunday unveiled the remains of a 5,000-year-old city at an archaeological site known as En Esur. The discovery, which includes fortifications, a ritual temple, is among the biggest from its era in the region. AFP

### 4 killed, 5 wounded in shooting at U.S. bar

KANSAS  
Two men opened fire inside a bar in Kansas City early on Sunday, killing four people and wounding five others in a shooting believed to have stemmed from an earlier dispute, police said. AP

## Chinese soldiers warn Hong Kong protesters

Scores arrested under emergency laws



Stand-off continues: Protesters smashing a taxi during a demonstration in Hong Kong on Sunday. • AFP

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Chinese soldiers issued a warning to Hong Kong protesters who shone lasers at their barracks in the city on Sunday, in the first direct interaction with mainland military forces in four months of anti-government demonstrations.

"We are not afraid of the new law, we will continue fighting. I put on the mask to tell the government that I'm not afraid of tyranny."

China's Hong Kong military garrison warned a crowd of a few hundred protesters they could be arrested for targeting its barracks walls in the city with laser lights. It was the first direct interaction between the PLA and protesters. Chinese military personnel standing on the roof of the building held up a sign in English and Chinese which read: "Warning. You are in breach of the law. You may be prosecuted."

The PLA's top brass has warned violence is "absolutely impermissible". The rallies on Sunday on Hong Kong Island and across the harbour in Kowloon had been largely peaceful until police began to try and disperse the crowds, saying they were participating in unlawful assemblies.

Police made their first arrests under the new rules, detaining scores of people. Officers tied their wrists with cable and unmasked their faces before placing them on buses. Some protesters lay in foetal positions on the ground, their wrists tied behind their backs, af-

ter a series of scandals, from a nepotism row to the alleged involvement of a former Minister in an Army cover-up of the theft of weapons from a military base, other voters said it was time for a change.

"The last four years weren't great for me. It is the same as it was in 2009 during the crisis," said Adriano Macedo, 66, who voted for the centre-right Social Democrats (PSD), the main opposition party.

The PSD is polling at under 30% and is expected to lose seats, while the Socialists are seen winning more than in 2015.

If the senses are not controlled,



The diminishing popularity of ME/M.Tech programmes is a cause for concern. These programmes need to be strengthened with innovative schemes, academic flexibility and the inclusion of emerging technologies

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**Plan the next step:** Reviving postgraduation education.

## Why No Takers?

■ P. V. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN

Close to 80% of seats in the ME and M.Tech programmes at engineering colleges, under the purview of Anna University (Chennai), remained vacant after the admission process was completed this year. This is definitely a matter of concern for educators, particularly in technical education.

The field is already suffering from diminishing popularity at the undergraduate level, and one of the major causes is the dearth of competent post-graduate and doctoral teachers. According to a recent review committee report of the Tamil Nadu government, there are 1,930 vacant teaching posts in the 33 government/university departments/colleges and 85 polytechnics in the state. Since today's students become tomorrow's teachers, this trend of decreasing admissions in PG engineering programmes could forecast a worsening of the situation, not only in academic degree programmes, but also in engineering research.

It may, however, be interesting to know that even during the times of higher popularity of engineering education, admission in postgraduate programmes was not always as coveted as for undergraduate programmes, even in IITs, IISc, NITs and constituent colleges of Anna University.

### Failing popularity

The reasons are many, one is that for most students, "education is for a job". While a good undergraduate degree in engineering is often sufficient to fetch you a decent job, a postgraduate degree may not improve the prospect too much. This is most apparent in areas like computer science in which we have faced a dearth of teachers with postgraduate degrees, for a long time. It is funny that a postgraduate degree may even reverse the charm of just an undergraduate degree, since, ultimately, you may end up as a 'teacher only', which you may despise (unjustifiably).

The second reason is that the two years that one spends on the ME or M.Tech programme is too much as a professional experience of that length could bring in more benefits to the student. For this reason, some join the course in lieu of a job and quit the moment they get one. This attrition leads to valuable seats being left vacant since it would be too late to fill them with those wait-listed. Migration to other institutions for reasons such as better academic status, placement history, credibility, the possibility of financial assistance and the like is another reason for the attrition.

**The undergraduate programmes are often only the gateways to higher education and never complete in themselves.**

Some institutions are indulging in disservice to education by conducting half-baked PG programmes in engineering without proper infrastructure, faculty, periodic assessment, attendance requirements, and so on, but are awarding degrees verging on fake degrees. These institutions do not complain of low admission. Such academic offences must be dealt with greater severity and admonition than economic offences.

### Solutions

One way of making the ME/M.Tech programmes more inviting is to strengthen the 'teacher-candidate' scheme that we had in reputed institutions like College of Engineering, Guindy in Chennai. Under this scheme, bright raw BE/B.Tech graduates, with an aptitude for teaching, were taken as lecturers for undergraduate classes, with reduced workload, and simultaneously allowed to undergo the relevant postgraduate programme in the same institution for an extended duration, with the condition that they would serve as teachers in the same institution after finishing the course. This not only helps to add better and motivated post-graduate students, but also assures quality teachers to replace the contract teachers who have limited tenures and responsibilities.

Another way is to bring back the old system of one-and-a-half-year ME/M.Tech programmes that we had some years ago. The resulting reduction in the duration of the programmes will be definitely more inviting to many. We will still be better than some of the western countries where one-year postgraduate programmes are offered. M.Sc programmes in Advanced Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, the U.K.; MS programmes in Computer Science at the University of British Columbia and Western University, Canada; and Computer Science and Information System at the University of Utah, the U.S., are samples of 12-month programmes.

Introducing emerging technologies such as AI (Artificial Intelligence) with data science, IoT (Internet of Things), quantum computing, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain and cybersecurity, microbots, and stem cell therapy as specialisations, at the postgraduate level, will add value to the programmes.

Providing for dual specialisation within the same major discipline and dual programmes in different disciplines will also enthuse takers. Duration, of course, will be longer. Catering to smarter candidates, accelerated programmes that allow them to finish the course on a compressed timeline will also be helpful. With the choice-based credit system in vogue, an overload of credits can be allowed, enabling early course completion. Possession of professional experience can be given credit to reduce the course load.

A recent announcement by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) chairman, Anil Sahasrabudhe, stated that postgraduates who plan to become engineering faculty will be required to undergo eight modules of training and three weeks of internship should not be a deterrent, but a welcome feature for those with a real aptitude for teaching.

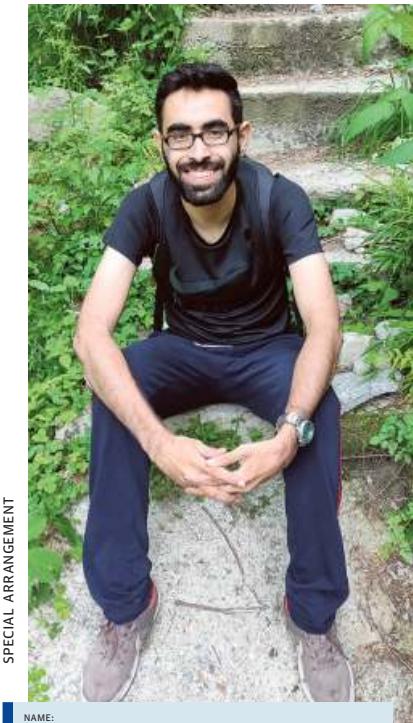
The diminishing popularity of postgraduate education is definitely deplorable. The undergraduate programmes are often only the gateways to higher education and never complete in themselves. This is because, at this level, most fundamentals are exposed to the learner in a diffused way; the real and deeper understanding of at least some chosen specialised area is made possible only in a master's programme. It is imperative, therefore, to save our ME/M.Tech programmes.

The writer is a former professor and Director, Entrance Examinations and Admission, Anna University, Chennai.

### MY INTERNSHIP

## Researching for a future

After spending years in engineering, Kunal decided to try his hand at other options



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**NAM:** Kunal Arora  
**INSTITUTION:** Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology, Delhi  
**ORGANISATION:** Codit Solutions, Hyderabad  
**DURATION:** Three months

I was in my third semester when I realised that I did not want to become an engineer. However, what I had not realised yet was what I wanted to be. I knew that I needed to embellish my resume, but I had no idea where or how to start. So, I started applying for internships.

After four months of struggle and patience, I was hired for a market research internship at Kriger Campus, a mobile-based education network. It was a work-from-home internship, where I analysed the current education system and generated ideas to improve it. I communicated with 31 other interns in a WhatsApp group; we were the alpha testers who checked every facet of the app. I conducted surveys and participated in group discussions and brainstorming sessions. My performance gave me confidence and clarity about what I was truly interested in, and that was when I decided to pursue market research.

### Getting expertise

During my summer break, I applied and started an internship with Codit Solutions. I conducted market research and prepared reports. This gave me new insights on how market research helps a business.

After this, I interned with an IT company, Walkover, where I went through three rounds of selection. In the first two rounds, the officials asked me to write a pitch for cold calling (a technique in which a salesperson contacts potential buyers regarding specific products or services) and to create a survey on the exotic vegetable market in India. The final round was a telephonic interview with the HR wherein officials enquired about my educational background, hobbies, and about my interest in market research. During this internship, I conducted cold calls and surveys on restaurant databases and maintained the response sheets. I also got an opportunity to work as the campus ambassador of IIM Bangalore. I filled a questionnaire and prepared a marketing plan, and once I was shortlisted, I was tasked with promoting their fest, *Unmaad*.

My four internships rebranded my skill-set and gave my career a new direction. When I first started looking for opportunities, I did not know what to pursue, so I worked in various fields and realised that market research was my true calling.

Kunal Arora is a third-year engineering student of Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Courtesy: internshala.com

### SCHOLARSHIP

#### AICTE-Saksham Scholarship Scheme

AICTE will be providing scholarships to differently-abled students for pursuing technical degree/diploma courses from recognised institutions in India. This scholarship is aimed at encouraging students towards technical education, by lending financial support for professional studies.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All specially-abled students, with disability levels not less than 40%, may apply, if they are currently enrolled in one year of any degree/diploma programme at AICTE-recognised institutions.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Selected students will receive a tuition fee reimbursement of up to ₹30,000, or actual (whichever is less), and incidental charges benefit of ₹2,000/month for up to 10 months/year.

**APPLICATION:** Online  
**DEADLINE:** October 08  
<http://www.b4s.in/plus/PSG2>

#### University of Sussex Sports Scholarships Scheme

Indian athletes who wish to pursue higher education abroad, are invited by the University of Sussex to pursue undergraduate studies with scholarship benefits and other academic support. The scholarship aims at supporting the sporting excellence of Indian students at an international level.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students who have a proven record of athletics, at the state and national level in India, and are applying for undergraduate admissions at the University of Sussex, are eligible.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Selected students will receive a tuition fee reimbursement of up to ₹30,000, or actual (whichever is less), and incidental charges benefit of ₹2,000/month for up to 10 months/year.

**APPLICATION:** Online  
**DEADLINE:** October 08  
<http://www.b4s.in/plus/AAS4>

#### AICTE Pragati Scholarship for Girls

AICTE has announced this year's Pragati Scholarship Scheme for girls who need financial assistance to pursue higher education. The scholarship aims at encouraging young girls to pursue higher education in the field of technical and professional studies.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Indian girls enrolled

### "V-star" scholarship

Velammal NEET and IIT Academy is organising V-STAR Scholarship Exam, which is open to students presently studying in classes V to X. The exam will be held on October 13. Through this, students can avail upto 100% scholarship worth ₹3.5 crore. Spot registration is also available.

For more details, contact: 7299067932 or 9700756481

## Engage with your ideas

As students, it is important to make the conscious shift from being passive listeners to active ones



### BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

I recently met a former student who, after leaving the institution where I teach, had gone on to do an advanced degree from what is considered one among a network of eminent technology institutes. This one has, in the past decade, acquired a reputation for research degrees in the liberal arts, despite the broader institutional emphasis on technology education. "The coursework was intense," he said, referring to the amount of reading students were expected to do. The expectation was that students would go down the reading list according to the schedule of discussions, and make a note if they were confused about something. These confusions would be brought into the class and be clarified or explored further, as the readings were discussed.

The sub-text to this conversation was that such advance reading rarely happened in his earlier university experience. This probably comes as no surprise to college teachers, particularly those in the social sciences and humanities. Generally, the instructor builds carefully curated



reading lists, arranges the items in logical order, mixing up the long and the short, the complex and somewhat simple, the contemporary and the classic. The hopeful teacher envisions stimulated and engaging discussions, with students having gone through the assigned materials and prepared to contribute their views. The realistic teacher, on the other hand, does not count on anyone reading anything – unless there are marks involved.

If there is a test, then they know students will usually come prepared to a 't'. By and large, at the school level, learning is about "receiving" information and explanation. You listen and watch and do in the classroom, and you practise and internalise during homework and in preparation for exams. The listening comes first and the reading, later. In fact, reading only consolidates what has already been discussed in class. This is a great way to build an understanding of basic concepts and gather foundational information, across subjects.

But isn't higher education about something more? By the time we get to college, particularly at the postgraduate level, we are already independent learners and thinkers. We have the ability to assimilate information in a variety of ways, and critically engage with ideas and their application. Yet, we continue to behave like passive receivers of information, failing to recognise and act on this ability.

Higher education is a distinct break from schooling, in this important aspect. It is a space where we become even more active participants in the process of our intellectual development. But such growth cannot happen effectively, if we continue to behave like receivers. Participation requires that we come into the class prepared to engage, rather than simply listen. It means bringing something to an interaction, rather than just taking. This depends on doing some work ahead of the class, and possibly, reducing the work you need to do after. And often, it means coming to the class with notes made, rather than waiting for it to be given.

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com



## LIVE LIGHTLY

NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

Our generation grew up knowing 'Curiosity killed the cat'. Curiosity during times of zero social media identities, when no one publicly shared intimate details of their life, had a nasty ring to it. Being curious meant being overtly nosy and interfering in the lives of others.

In the last decade or less, curiosity has taken on a nuanced meaning – the role of a rescuer at clogged crossroads. The curious and open disposition has freed many a persistent deadlock with a simple inquiry, 'What can I know that I don't know already?'

My experience, working with adults and the youth, has often led to this resting yet generative safe-house of curiosity and ensuing openness. In many ways, curiosity has offered a welcoming, kind, more humane space to deal with fear, doubt or indifference with life.

Let us sample a life situation.

How do we thrive during the academic years, internships, and first jobs? We enter these arenas of life with the lurking fear of being found out: 'What if they find out that I know nothing' is a familiar foreboding. And this fear of the unknown gets masked under a veneer of cool collectedness. This self-inflicted coolness shadows and dumbs down natural eagerness. The irony is that the teachers, mentors and bosses on the other side are keen to see earnest and curious newcomers agog with questions, even about the most obvious issues. Eagerness, for them, is a sign



## Curiosity doesn't kill the cat

The wondrous state is open-hearted and offers clues to explore, hope, imagine, and ignite new thinking

of potential and promise.

### Natural instinct

Like the child curious about every item she can lay her hands on, curiosity augurs progress and openness to new ideas and connections. It is a hope-inducing view even in a state of numbing indecision.

To me, curiosity is foundational. Some of the alternate teaching frameworks are beginning to guide young learners beyond the 'I see so I know' orientation to 'I think' and

'I wonder' route to learning. If you reach deep into the 'I wonder' process, you will find that a rich sense of freedom and possibility emerges. The wondrous, curious state is open-hearted and offers clues to explore, hope, imagine, and ignite new thinking.

To me, there is a bigger gain to the curious state of play. Curiosity is the doorway to much goodness – passion, purpose, logic, knowledge, meaningfulness are some.

Simply speaking, the uncurious

mind is a closed mind – a closed space without fresh air or light – hence, nothing promising generates from within. It does not question the logjam of fear, doubt, and assumptive paralysis. Allowing the room a curiosity doorway makes fresh thinking accessible.

The door may be small to begin with, and may need a deliberate push, but frequent practice will make the doorway wider and accessible.

Often, when we arrive at the familiar place of missing passion or

**Simply speaking, the uncurious mind is a closed mind – a closed space without fresh air or light – hence, nothing promising generates from within.**

purpose, the question 'What is it that still makes me feel excited and alive?' 'What do I already know that I could use?' 'What am I not asking of myself?' are powerful questions to reflect on. The vacuum that we often feel has answers in the wealth of experience that is already lived, sitting unmined inside us. As we get curious, we generate cues, clues and alerts that gently guide and mobilise ideas and choices towards the future.

Sometime back, a serendipitous moment made me sign up for a 'challenging-level' summit climb up one of the highest peaks in the world. I recall asking, 'I wonder how I will behave under the pressure of summiting. I wonder what will show up that will take me through. I wonder if my fitness will hold up to the challenge.'

The appeal of finding answers was bigger than the lurking doubts, and years later I have many answers: That climbing is my passion – my stimulus to be disciplined and keep fit; that mountains are my thing – my place to de-clutter and regenerate; that between the exotic and challenging – the latter brings me alive in the best way possible.

I was curious, I tried something new; something that I didn't know I cared for till then. I discovered a passion. Curiosity surprised me with a life-truth.

The writer is a life coach, blogger and writer who simplifies the patterns and archetypes she encounters at work and in life. nivedita@lifelaligncoaching

## Explore your options



## OFF THE EDGE

NANDINI RAMAM

I am an accountant and have over six years of experience. I would like to pursue higher education in accounting and taxation. However, I am not interested in regular programmes such as ICAI, CMA, CPA's or even master's. I would like to learn something new. Kindly guide me on what programmes are available in the country or abroad. – Naveen

Dear Naveen,

Diploma in Taxation (accounting and commerce, one-year programme), imparts theoretical and practical knowledge of direct and indirect taxes, financial accounting and auditing. It is a career-oriented course offered both as a full-time and a correspondence course. It is available at various government universities and private institutions. The fee ranges between ₹5,000 and ₹2 lakh. In addition, many specialisations are available online from premier international institutes on web platforms such as coursera.org, udemy.com, and so on. For studying abroad, you need to research and shortlist the course of your choice first and then read the fine print on the admission criteria, aid and scholarship details to decide. Good luck.

I am 22 years old and I have completed my B.Sc. Due to some reasons, I have wasted two years. I have started to prepare for the civil services exam at home now. Please guide me on how I can prepare? – Sneha Ammu

Hi Sneha,

Understand the UPSC pattern and procedure first; go through the UPSC syllabus thoroughly. Start reading books and watch video lectures online on basic subjects such as politics, history, geography, and so on; read the newspaper regularly; chart out a preparation timetable and follow it strictly. Make sure it is realistic and doable; enrol for a good test series and get answer writing practice. Stick to your schedule, get some exercise and enough rest. Lastly, think and stay positive. All the very best to you.

**Disclaimer: This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.**

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

## Make sound judgements

It is important to guard against the tendency to create an illusory gap based on false dichotomies



## THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN



### We need to cultivate factfulness and make it habitual by practising and persisting.

of humans now live in middle-income countries. When Hans Rosling lectured at the World Bank in 1999, he argued that we need to move beyond 'developing' and 'developed' labels to include more nuanced distinctions. Apparently, it took the World Bank 17 years and much persuasion before it did away with these labels.

The "gap instinct", thus creates false dichotomies. To resist falling prey to the "gap instinct," the Roslings caution us to be more circumspect. When someone provides only averages to support distinctions between two groups, we also need to ask for the range or spread of data, be it income or test scores. Further, we need to beware of comparisons of extremes. Often, the majority of people are in the middle "where the gap is supposed to be."

To recap, we must guard against our tendency to create an illusory gap based on false dichotomies, our penchant for bad news and bias towards straight lines when examining data points. Next month, I will unpack a few more unhelpful human instincts that lead us astray.

vertly, life expectancy, violent crime or the spread of literacy, humans have made inordinate gains. Of course, this does not imply that all is well with the world.

But we would do ourselves a service by remembering that bad news is more likely to reach us than good tidings. As the Roslings sagely observe, "Gradual improvement is not news." We also need to be aware of our tendency to see our childhood experiences through rose-tinted lenses. Likewise, "nations often glorify their histories" and we need to be wary of sanitised versions that extol our past.

Another instinct that leads us astray is to imagine "straight lines" connecting points, when in actuality curves "in lots of different shapes" may explain the data better. When we look at a subset of data and see an upward trend, we should remind ourselves that it could "be a part of a straight line, an S-bend, a hump."

To recap, we must guard against our tendency to create an illusory gap based on false dichotomies, our penchant for bad news and bias towards straight lines when examining data points. Next month, I will unpack a few more unhelpful human instincts that lead us astray.

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA. arunasankara@gmail.com

## VALUE ADD



## Crisis of creativity

Though student imagination is at an all-time low, critical thinking, creative writing, and the will to learn can address the elephant in the room

■ VAIBHAV PANDE

Colleges these days are creating an army of nodders and jotters, while the job should be to create leaders and visionaries for a better tomorrow. Institutions are valued on the basis of a grandiose building, a visit from some renowned world leaders, a potent online presence and fancy advertisements in the print media to create puffery.

The current approach towards education in Indian colleges looks like something that is done in jest and without keeping in mind students' future. The nation needs creative minds that can bring big changes and can help India become a global power. The only thing that colleges are giving the country is a long line of discombobulated graduates.

Why are there less creative graduates in the country? One of the main reasons behind the lack of creativity in college students or graduates is the excessive usage of the Internet. This has led to a great decrease in the generation of original ideas and plans. Students don't bother to use their imagination while preparing a project or report and what is worse is that the college does not object. Right from the beginning, students are trained only to improve their memory so that they can memorise more to get good grades. After school, they are only left with a marksheet which takes them on a circuitous path that ends in disappointment.

Students should be taught the importance of developing their overall personality and the importance of creative thinking.

### What next?

Albert Einstein said, "I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious." Curiosity is the most powerful seed that teachers and mentors can plant in young minds. Skills such as creative writing, out-of-the-box thinking activities, and so on, should be part of every college's curriculum as they help students step outside their ambit of knowledge and also turn the classroom into an atelier where they can explore and create masterpieces.

The current creativity rate of most students is unsatisfactory, but it can be improved with the help of creativity workshops and thinking skills activities. Most of our country's masterminds go outside India to study and explore better opportunities. They end up becoming CEOs of multinational American companies and take these companies to unprecedented heights. The government needs to take major steps regarding creativity classes in Indian colleges. This will result in a huge line of startups and entrepreneurs that will help in generating employment, bring revolutionary changes, and turn India into a robust economy.

The writer is CEO of Twin Win, a motivational speaker and success coach.

## Music Maker JAM

With the use of loops, beats and samples, you can create your own music. Genres such as EDM, pop, rock, and so on, enable you to remix



songs and share them online through social media accounts. The app also lets you record your own vocal, remix sounds and loops from different genres. A fun feature enables you to just shake your devices and get remixed versions of the song. Growing as a producer is easy with this app as there are many DJs, artists, singers, and more with whom you can connect.

<https://bit.ly/1bUke6q>

## n-Track Studio Music DAW

The unlimited number of stereo and mono audio tracks lets you create a melody to a base track added. With the app turning your phone into a music studio, you can

use the mixer to adjust levels, add effects and apply equalisation. Other features include a step sequencer, piano-roll MIDI Editor and guitar and base amp plugins.

<https://bit.ly/2sARIN7>

## Reforms in M.Tech

New measures are being implemented in the M.Tech programmes of Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). A three-member committee was formed, which gave recommendations on reforms on M.Tech programme in the IITs, to the Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal 'Nishank'. The Members of the committee included Prof. B.S. Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, Prof. Manoj S. Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu and Prof. M. Balakrishnan, IIT Delhi. Recommendations were made with respect to better fees structure, stipend and more fellowship opportunities, and are likely to increase academia-industry collaboration.

## EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN

MAKE-UP AND CLOTHES DON'T MATTER MUCH. WHAT'S INSIDE YOU IS WHAT MATTERS MOST.



## IN BRIEF

## Neuroimaging event

Sharda Hospital recently organised CME "Sharda Neuro-Imaging Update". The event was jointly organised by Department of Radio-Diagnosis Sharda Hospital and School of Medical Sciences and Research (SMS&R) at Sharda University. The event brought together more than 100 doctors who discussed about the basic concepts of imaging applications and the trending scenarios in neuroimaging. Specialist doctors also held discussions on the new applications emerging in the field of neuroimaging – thus enabling more precision in diagnostics and tracking.



## Sustainable development

XLRi – Xavier School of Management, Jharkhand, recently organised the sixth "Dr Verghese Kurien Memorial Oration on Sustainable Development". It is organised under the aegis of Fr. Arrupe Center for Ecology and Sustainability (FACES). This year, Dr. Vandana Shiva, eminent environmental activist and ecofeminist delivered the oration on the topic "Oneness vs. The 1%: Ecological responses to the threat for planet and humanity".



## ASK US



VIDYA BALA

**Q. My husband is working in an IT firm and his current CTC is ₹13 lakh per annum. After our monthly expenditure of about ₹50,000, we can save some good amount. Please suggest an investment plan to buy a home.**

SHALINI RATHORE

**A. We do not know when you wish to buy a home, how much you can save and what the budget for your home is. Please get these estimates so that you can save in a more focussed manner and are able to choose the right instruments.**

If your home-buying plan is within the next three years, then you should stick to simple products such as recurring deposits and use some low-risk liquid funds and low duration debt funds to add any periodic lump sums you may accumulate in your savings account. If your goal is over five years away, then consider investing at least 50% in multi-cap equity mutual funds using monthly SIPs and the remaining in a combination of recurring deposit and short-term high-quality debt funds.

**Q. I am 40 years old. I have a daughter studying in Class One. I purchased an SBI Smart Champ insurance plan for my daughter four years ago and pay about ₹1,000 as monthly premium. This is for her future education and marriage. Can you please suggest other investments which will return more and are safe considering my age and retirement.**

VIJAY DEVAGIRIKAR

**A. The policy you have taken is a non-linked policy and may not see high returns. Based on your premium, I am assuming the sum assured will not be more than ₹20-25 lakh. You can consider Sukanya Samridhi Yojana offered by the government, exclusively for a girl child, with a fixed interest and guaranteed return.**

But other than that, given that this policy is not one that will yield optimal returns, you should consider some market-linked quality products like mutual funds in order to build enough corpus for your daughter and make sure you save for retirement.

Seek the help of a fee-based adviser to help you make an estimate of how much you need to save for your daughter and for your own retirement. This way, you will at least be on track in terms of knowing how much to save or even alter your expectations of what you can provide.

**Q. My wife is 57 years old. She has ₹50 lakh in NHAI bonds at an interest rate of 5.75%. The bonds are due for redemption on December 31, 2019.**

**I need your advice as to how the amount can be gainfully invested on maturity. I have no pressing requirement for this amount. My wife would like to receive some money for her monthly expenses and there is no pressing requirement otherwise.**

A.N. KUNJUNNY

**A. Options like Post Office Senior Citizens' Scheme and LIC's Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana would work well to get good returns as well as regular income.**

However, they are available from the age of 60. Until such time, you can consider investing in FDs and majorly corporate deposits and post office schemes to derive interest income for your wife's monthly needs.

You can consider deploying the remaining in liquid and ultra-short debt funds with very low risk and about 20% in multi-cap equity funds using the systematic investment plan or systematic transfer plan to deploy it slowly into the market. Have a minimum three-year horizon for the debt funds and allow the equity funds to grow for the long term.

(The author is Co-Founder, Redwood Research)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to [moneywise@thehindu.co.in](mailto:moneywise@thehindu.co.in). Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

# What you didn't know about deposit insurance

With reports of bank failure hogging the headlines, a depositor needs to know about the safety of her hard-earned money

## AARATI KRISHNAN

With the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cracking down on Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) last week and capping withdrawals by depositors at ₹25,000 (₹1,000 initially, increased to ₹10,000 later), were you wondering what happens to depositors if banks fail in India? Here's a refresher on how deposit insurance works.

## What happens to depositors' money when a bank fails?

When a bank is liquidated, depositors are entitled to receive an insurance amount of ₹1 lakh per individual from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC). The DICGC is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI. The ₹1 lakh insurance limit includes both principal and interest dues across your savings bank accounts, current accounts, fixed deposits and recurring deposits held with the bank.

## Are co-operative banks covered by DICGC?

Yes, deposit insurance covers all commercial banks and foreign banks operating in India, State, Central and Urban Co-operative Banks, local area banks and regional rural banks. When a bank fails to pay up the premium for deposit insurance, DICGC sometimes de-registers the bank and its insurance cover ceases. You can check the DICGC website ([www.dicgc.org.in](http://www.dicgc.org.in)) for a list of insured banks under different categories.

## What if I have many accounts in the same bank?

The ₹1 lakh insurance limit is applicable across all the accounts held by an individual depositor.

So, if you have multiple bank accounts with the same bank, you will receive only ₹1 lakh as insurance payout against all the accounts held in your name. Suppose you have ₹50,000 in your savings bank account, ₹1 lakh in fixed deposits and

₹30,000 in recurring deposits (including interest) with the same bank and the bank goes bust, you will receive only ₹1 lakh and will lose ₹80,000.

Do note that, due to this limit, by end March 2019, only ₹33.7 lakh crore of the ₹120 lakh crore deposit balances with banks were insured. Banks are also entitled to set off any pending dues against this payout.

## How does this work

## for business and joint accounts?

To decide on the eligibility, all accounts held in the same capacity with the same rights are added up.

Therefore, if you hold several accounts in a failed bank in your individual name, you will be eligible for a combined insurance payout of only ₹1 lakh. But if you hold a personal account in your name and another account as a partner

in a partnership firm or as the guardian of a minor (a different capacity), these will be treated as different accounts and will receive separate insurance payouts of ₹1 lakh each.

In joint accounts, all joint accounts where the account holders are mentioned in the same order are treated as one. But joint accounts where the holders are in different order (different rights) will receive separate payouts.

## How do I maximise my deposit insurance cover?

By diversifying your deposits across multiple

banks and holding accounts in different capacities – as an individual, joint account holder or guardian of a minor.

## Who pays for this insurance?

Every insured bank pays premium amounting to 0.001% of its deposits to DICGC every year.

## Have many banks gone bust in

₹37 crore as claims with respect to 15 co-operative banks and had a surplus of ₹87,995 crore in its deposit insurance fund by the end of the year.

Apart from premiums, DICGC also makes money from investments and proceeds recovered from liquidated banks.

## What is the procedure for depositors to claim the money from a failed bank?

The DICGC does not deal directly with depositors. The RBI (or the Registrar), on directing that a bank be liquidated, appoints an official liquidator to oversee the winding up process.

Under the DICGC Act, the liquidator is supposed to hand over a list of all the insured depositors (with their dues) to the DICGC within three months of taking charge. The DICGC is supposed to pay these dues within two months of receiving this list.

In FY19, it took an average 1,425 days for the DICGC to receive and settle the first claims on a de-registered bank.

## COVER NOTE: HEART CARE POLICY

## Have a heart for insurance

CVDs will be the largest cause of death and disability in India by 2020: WHO

## AMIT CHHABRA

It was just two months ago when Mridul, a marketing professional, from Kolkata, opted to undergo a casual cardiac screening test under a health check-up camp organised by his employer.

A non-smoker and an avid runner, Mridul recalls he wasn't worried at all while taking the different tests. However, the results were shocking. Through a number of further tests, he got to know that he had mitral leaking valve disease with blood leaking into the wrong parts of his heart.

Soon, he underwent a keyhole surgery to repair the valve which cost him ₹3 lakh. Unfortunately, he was not covered under an individual health cover policy and his employer-provided health policy only covered expenses up to ₹1 lakh. To pay for the hospital expenses, he had to break his savings. Had he taken an individual health insurance policy, his savings would have been intact.

As per several reports, cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of mortality worldwide as they contribute to over 17.5 million deaths worldwide every year.

While the deaths due to CVDs have declined in the U.S., in India it has increased by over 34% in the last two decades. CVDs will be the largest cause of death



**Taking heart:** About 80% of premature deaths from CVDs can be avoided if the risk factors are controlled ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

and disability in India by 2020 as per a World Health Organisation report. This is because of the genetic make-up of Indians and the consistent lifestyle change they have undergone over the last few decades.

Experts believe that at least 80% of premature deaths from CVDs could be avoided if the main risk factors – tobacco, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity – are controlled.

## Massive expenses

Working towards a healthy heart also means keeping yourself insured against the massive expenses of unexpected onset of CVDs. Treatment of CVDs is costly in India.

An open-heart surgery costs ₹5 lakh to ₹7 lakh and valve surgeries between ₹3 lakh and ₹6 lakh. To cover

these expenses, one must invest in a comprehensive health insurance policy that provides adequate coverage. Considering the rising incidence of cardiac ailments in India, insurers have come up with specifically-designed plans.

The plans provide financial protection in case you are diagnosed with a cardiac condition or are undergoing a procedure as covered under the policy.

A fixed benefit cardiac plan allows you to avail the best medical treatment by helping meet your medical needs and letting you use your savings for a rainy day.

They provide comprehensive cover for an extensive list of cardiac conditions and procedures and fixed lump sum payout if

respective of actual expenses incurred for diagnosis/procedure.

Multiple claims of same or different conditions/procedures can be covered subject to the exhaustion of applicable sum insured. Moreover, consumers can even choose hospitalisation benefit to get lump sum payout in case he/she is hospitalised due to any of the covered conditions.

## Plans on offer

Plans that offer coverage to people already suffering from heart-related ailments include Star Health Insurance's Cardiac Care which is available at a premium of ₹19,010. One may even choose to invest in Religare's Care Heart available at a premium of ₹9,208 while Aditya Birla's Optima Restore at a premium of ₹8,431 or Star's Medi Classic that costs ₹6,431.

The plans provide financial protection in case you are diagnosed with a cardiac condition or are undergoing a procedure as covered under the policy.

All the premiums are for a 35-year-old male residing in a metro city and the sum insured for each of these plans is ₹5 lakh.

(The author is Business Head, Health Insurance, policybazaar.com)

For those not suffering from heart-related ailments but wish to cover themselves against CVD can invest in plans like Max Bupa's Health Companion at a premium of ₹8,752, Apollo's Optima Restore at a premium of ₹8,431 or Star's Medi Classic that costs ₹6,431.

The plans provide financial protection in case you are diagnosed with a cardiac condition or are undergoing a procedure as covered under the policy.

A fixed benefit cardiac plan allows you to avail the best medical treatment by helping meet your medical needs and letting you use your savings for a rainy day.

They provide comprehensive cover for an extensive list of cardiac conditions and procedures and fixed lump sum payout if

## Gold price at MCX in ₹/10-grams



\$15.5-16.6. Until the price of silver holds above \$16.5, there would be a case for a rise towards \$19.5-20.

Gold and silver prices at MCX mirrored the trend in the international market. The outlook for MCX gold and silver appears positive. The gold futures price at MCX is likely to head to the immediate target of ₹40,600-41,000 per 10-grams. The positive view would warrant a reassessment if the price falls below the support zone at ₹36,600-37,000 per 10-grams. Below ₹36,600, MCX gold could slide to ₹34,500-34,750 zone.

MCX silver could move higher towards the immediate target of ₹48,600-49,500 zone. There is a strong support for silver at ₹43,600-44,000 zone. A close below ₹43,600 would invalidate the positive outlook and could push MCX silver price to lower levels of ₹40,000-40,200 per kilogram.

To summarise, precious metals have been in a short-term down-trend and the recent price action indicates resumption of the medium-term up-trend. As long as the support zones are not violated, expect precious metals to inch higher.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)

## LOOSE CHANGE

## RAVIKANTH



"Why, yes, you have read it right! Onion Dosa has become a special item now!"

## Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
<b>SMALL FINANCE BANKS</b>				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.35	8.75	8.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.00	8.30	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	7.30	7.30
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.50	8.50	8.00
Fincare Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	9.00	8.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.50	8.00	8.35
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.30	8.10	7.50	7.00
North East Small Finance Bank	8.75	8.00	7.25	6.75
AU Small Finance Bank	7.77	7.00	7.77	7.50
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.65	7.00	7.40	7.25
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>				
Indian Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.30
Syndicate Bank	6.70	6.50	6.50	6.50
Bank of Maharashtra	6.00	6.00	5.75	5.50
State Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Andhra Bank	6.60	6.60	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Bank of India	6.50	6.50	6.25	6.25
Union Bank of India	6.60	6.60		

One of the first words to enter the English language from India was 'loot', writes William Dalrymple, setting the stage for *The Anarchy*, a story of how a "dangerously unregulated" private joint stock company, housed in a nondescript London building, raised an enormous army and went on to ravage the Indian subcontinent. In what is easily his most ambitious and arguably his most engrossing work, the Scottish historian and writer makes a case that the empire was won not on the strength of military superiority, but as a result of the cunning of a corporate house that was helped along by amoral Indian bankers who financed its operations. In his familiar passionate manner, Dalrymple cuts through the stodge that pervades a lot of writing on history to serve up a book that has it all – the compulsive pull of a thriller, the erudition of a significant piece of non-fiction, and the loveliness of a piece of literature. In his first interview to an Indian newspaper after the publication of the book, he declares that it is all too often forgotten that the conquest of India was an act of corporate violence. Excerpts from an interview:

**One of the fictions many of us believe is that the British ruled India for almost two centuries. We forget that until the middle of the 19th century, it was run by the East India Company. Has the role of this private joint stock company been downplayed or gotten too muddled up with that of the British government?**

• There is no question this is the case. It is true of Britain as it is of India. It was extremely well known in the 18th century that it was a company that was running India, and this was a cause of some scandal.

One of the biggest surprises in my research was the amount of resistance in the British press to what was going on. Some of it was because they didn't like the new nabobs coming back to Britain with fortunes and buying up country houses and parliamen-

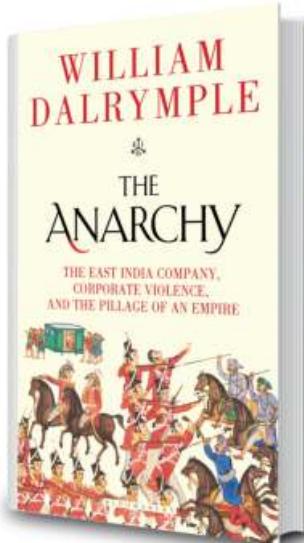
William Dalrymple's new book, *The Anarchy* – of how a commercial company ended up controlling a vast empire – is a story of corporate power that we need to know

## The Company we kept

MUKUND PADMANABHAN

**Looking back** William Dalrymple and (below) *The Anarchy*

• BIKRAMJIT BOSE



tary seats. But a lot of it read very much like a modern *[The] Guardian* editorial. 'That we had outdone the Spanish in brutality, for instance. That they at least had the excuse of faith, but that we had done it for profit.'

There were plays in London where [Robert] Clive was parodied as 'Lord Vulture' presiding over the Bengal Famine. There was continuous questioning in Parliament about how a commercial company run by merchants could control this vast empire and why it wasn't the Crown.

This was a very live issue at the time, but the Victorians spun it as a story of national glory and im-

perialism. And Indian nationalists bought that line but reversed it into a story of national oppression followed by liberation. The corporate violence got forgotten in this mix somehow.

**You say in the introduction that the book doesn't purport to provide a complete history of the Company. But even so, would it be fair to say, that you have wrapped this account in a slightly episodic manner around some personalities – Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Richard Wellesley – with Shah Alam running like**

**a thread through it?**

• That's a very good description of it. There are two stories I am telling really. The rise of the Company is the main one, but it is told against its mirror image, which is the fall of the Mughals. And the way they diminish from a trans-Indian power to Shah Alam stuck inside his little box that extends [from Delhi] to Palam.

But I wouldn't describe it as episodic. The question that the book tries to answer is how one London corporation took over from the Mughal empire... [how it] could seize such huge amounts of territory, and the answer is only partly technological. Yes, it

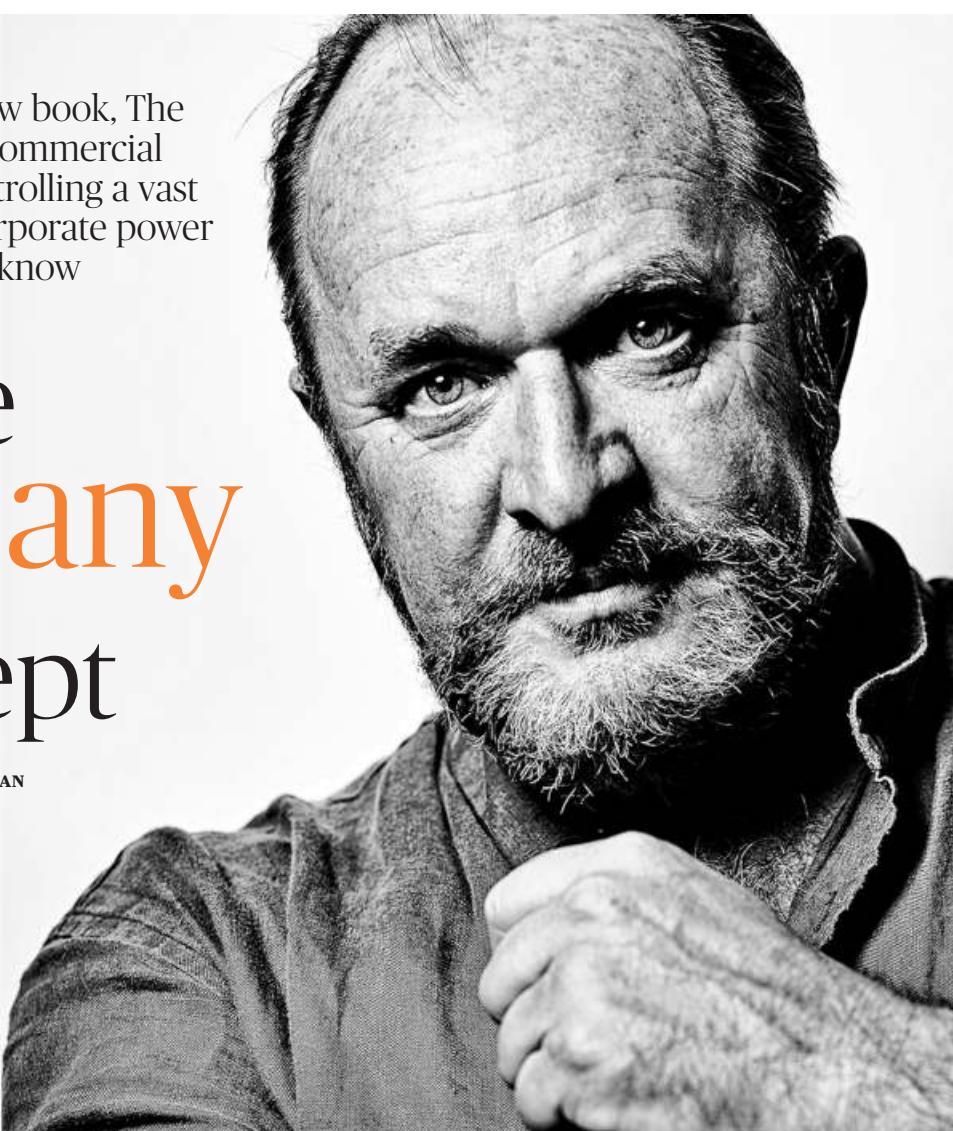
trained Indian sepoys in cutting-edge military techniques, but it was also a story of Indian collaboration. The Company made its first territorial seizure with the support of the Jagath Seths [the country's wealthiest bankers]. It was they who asked the British to overthrow Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal and they offered Clive £2 million to do this. This was the moment that the Company realised it could defeat the vast Mughal armies with a very small amount of its newly-trained sepoys. And particularly from the 1780s onwards, the Marwari and Jain bankers of Bengal, and later the Hindu bankers of Benares and Patna, consistently backed the Company against other Indian forces.

**In your book on Afghanistan (*Return of a King*), there were passages about the lessons we should learn from the Anglo-Afghan wars. Similarly, there are passages in *The Anarchy*, which state that the East India Company is a reminder of the potential abuse of corporate power. How important is this kind of political messaging to your work?**

• In both books, the main body of the works have no reference to the present. I tell the story as I researched it. But in these books, as well as the *White Mughals*, where I make points about the clash of civilisations, I see myself as a historian writing at a period of time when I am facing issues. At the time [around *White Mughals*] when western powers were back in Afghanistan, it seemed a good moment to consider the follies when the British were in that country. And this is a story about corporate power.

I think the main body of the works stand on their own, but these points I make in the introductions and conclusions give them a certain relevance to the reader. There are also nice outcomes of giving these histories a contemporary message, in that it becomes a part of the contemporary debate. When *Return of a King* came out, I was called by [former Afghanistan President] Hamid Karzai to brief him in Kabul. I was also called by [former US President] Barack Obama to brief the Afghan team in the White House. And last weekend, there was this thing about Imran Khan reading *The Anarchy* on his way back from the United Nations General Assembly. It went viral on Twitter. It is very nice when this happens, but what is more important to me is that the book stands up historically and that the main body of the text is accurate and comprehensive.

*A longer version of this interview is available at [Thehindu.com](http://Thehindu.com)*



### DOWN MEMORY LANE

## Recalling the Devi

Over the years, Durga Puja has become a festival that cuts across faiths and regions in Delhi



R.V. SMITH

Durga Puja is celebrated every year but now the immersion of the sculptures has started posing a big problem because of the pollution caused in the Yamuna and other water bodies. I remember that in 1948-49 when the Hollywood blockbuster *Samson and Delilah* was showing in Delhi with Victor Mature in the lead role, Durga Puja was not performed at so many centres. There were few *pratinamas* whose disposal was not a problem at all. Now, though the size of the images has been reduced, their number has increased manifold to 450 and there are only 116 ponds for their immersion. The river is out of bounds with a fine of ₹50,000 for flouting the order.

In Bengal, the festival first finds mention in 1606, a year after the death of Akbar, though it gained popularity only in the 18th century. In Delhi, however, the Puja ac-

quired prominence in the 1920s, with Timarpur and Kashmere Gate being among the main centres. The Bengali Club was the hub and pivot of the celebrations. Among the visitors to the club in Kashmere Gate were Rabindranath Tagore, Annie Besant, Subhas Chandra Bose and famed singer Hemant Kumar. Now the club has lost its case with the landlord and this landmark has ceased to exist at its present location.

In 1948 it was a big poser for us youngsters to decide whether to see the procession of images being taken for Bisarjan (immersion in the river) or to watch the matinee show of *Samson and Delilah*. It was finally decided to give the movie a miss (since we could see it some other day) and watch the Dussehra ceremonies, including the burning of the effigies of Ravana and his kinsmen. One interesting fea-

The Anglos went to the Puja to establish a friendship with high-profile Bengalis, who

celebrated Christmas with them with almost as much gusto. There was also the enjoyment of the dance and music programmes, along with the partaking of delicious eats.

Among those who used to look forward to Durga Puja were Mrs Dorothy and her daughter Enid. They had been told by Banerjee, their driver, that the image of the goddess became a breathing, living entity after the priest had infused life into it and that Durga was at the zenith of her power a day before Navami. This belief made the two ever curious to search for evidence. On the day of Bisarjan, the residents of the Civil Lines came out of their bungalows to watch the procession of the images being taken for immersion. It was mostly women who lined-up on both sides of the road and felt just as sorry as their counterparts at the end of Durga's annual sojourn on earth.

The community's participation in the puja was an extension of the bonhomie that marked the British interest in the occasion as far back as the 18th century, when the feudal rajas of Bengal hosted them at Dussehra time in Kolkata. In Delhi, however, that sort of nostalgia ceased after the Anglo-Indians moved out of the Civil Lines and Nirad Babu went away to England, where he preferred to wear suits instead of dhoti-kurta, and ham and bacon became his favourite breakfast, though his son Dhruva Chaudhuri stayed put in Delhi (until his death early this year).

*The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi*



**In myriad avatars** Durga Puja being celebrated in Delhi

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## 'Research is my superpower'

Author Roopa Pai talks about her latest book that demystifies medicine for kids and why she prefers to write non-fiction

R KRITHIKA

The next time someone pooh-poohs the idea of studying history, I am going to wave Roopa Pai's *From Leeches to Slug Glue: 25 explosive ideas that made (and are making) modern medicine* (Puffin Books). Beginning with the introduction titled 'I don't want to be a doctor. Why should I read this book?', Roopa takes her reader through how the ancients – Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Indians – looked at medicine and surgery. What is Ayurveda or Traditional Chinese Medicine? How did the microscope evolve? All this and more served up in easy-to-understand humorous prose.

Roopa says her stimulus when writing for children is not just to introduce them to new ideas "but also, more importantly, to new ways of thinking about existing ideas." Her earlier books on science were about challenging the notion that science is difficult and economics boring. This latest one, she says, is to challenge the current view that "all doctors are corrupt, selfish extortions with their eye firmly on the money – most are in fact supremely dedicated professionals who work themselves to the bone trying to make you better – and that western medicine is a scam."

Research is Roopa's favourite part of writing. "In the past some years, I've seldom read anything that is not



**Explore without biases** Roopa Pai says any subject will be fascinating with that approach • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### The write way

- When: I don't wait for the Muse to visit. I'm at my desk from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. when I'm working on a book.
- Where: At my desk, working on my desktop.
- How: I don't own a laptop so when I'm not in my room, I'm not writing, period.
- What: A cup of steaming ginger chai, and a bowl of mixture/murukku/masala chips/peanuts (Please do NOT try this at home, kids. Eat your fruits and veggies!)

into engaging, fun, conversations."

She thinks "it's great and very necessary" that there's more non-fiction for children now. "It also has the advantage of being popular with parents," she adds, "who love information, believe it is important and valuable and are willing to spend on such books."

Her favourite book? She says it's too hard to pick just one and names Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* and Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*. She's just finished Alex Michaelides' disturbing psychological thriller *The Silent Patient* and is "all ready to plunge into *An Orchestra of Minorities* by Chigozie Obioma."



MY MIND MATTERS

# Does that make me crazy?

The writer talks of how she survived a difficult marriage, her children being taken away from her, and her forcible institutionalisation

JHILMIL BRECKENRIDGE

In hindsight, I know that from my early 20s, I would sometimes get low phases. My solution would always be to throw myself into volunteering and that used to work. I was 21 and in the U.K. when I first trained as a telephone counsellor for The Samaritans, a helpline for those who were depressed and suicidal. Perhaps I wanted to call them myself, but pride kept me from calling. So I trained. It always helped me realise that people were worse off than I was.

**Difficult years**

But since 2001, after the birth of my third child, I noticed I was irritable and angry for some periods and then for months would be listless and lethargic. I also was undergoing sexual trauma in my marriage, was unable to sleep at night, and as a result, exhausted in the day. I was raising three young boys,



working on my business, and had a husband who was always travelling.

My daily life kept going because I was determined to be a "good" wife and mother. But the toll it took on my body and mind were irreparable. I was bleeding vaginally, anally, and vomiting all the time. I would lose my voice for days and sometimes lose hearing in one ear. We had financial troubles too. Truly 2001 to 2005 were the hardest. However, that was a time I was

starting to delve into yoga and spirituality and that was what saved me in the end.

In 2005, I went to see a psychiatrist in London. She scribbled the words BPD, following it with a question mark. She suggested I try a low dosage of a medication used for those with bipolar disorder. But I found out I was pregnant with my fourth child, so I am glad I never took it. In India, we mistook the scribble to be bipolar disorder, though it was never officially diagnosed. I now know BPD stands

for Borderline Personality Disorder. Today, I wonder about the sketchy process of diagnosis, as I had seen this doctor once for an hour.

I started reading books and literature about mental illness and started educating myself, resigned to living a life with mental illness, because that was how it was presented by some doctors, who told me it was like diabetes: I simply had to manage it on medication, for life. I actively started addressing the illness and my condition post August 2007, when I was forcibly incarcerated by my family into a psychiatric hospital in New Delhi for 46 days. I changed doctors, got into therapy actively, started an exercise routine and basically took my own health into my hands. It was not easy, because once you have the label of bipolar disorder, you are always judged through that.

If I was singing one day, and I like to sing, my family would often whisper, behind my back, 'Look, she is in mania.' It's like everything you do is judged through bipolar-coloured lenses.

**A complete change**

I continued my practice of yoga and meditation, took therapy very seriously, which really worked for me after I changed doctors. The most empowering thing was when he asked me: how would you like to heal, with medica-

tion or therapy?

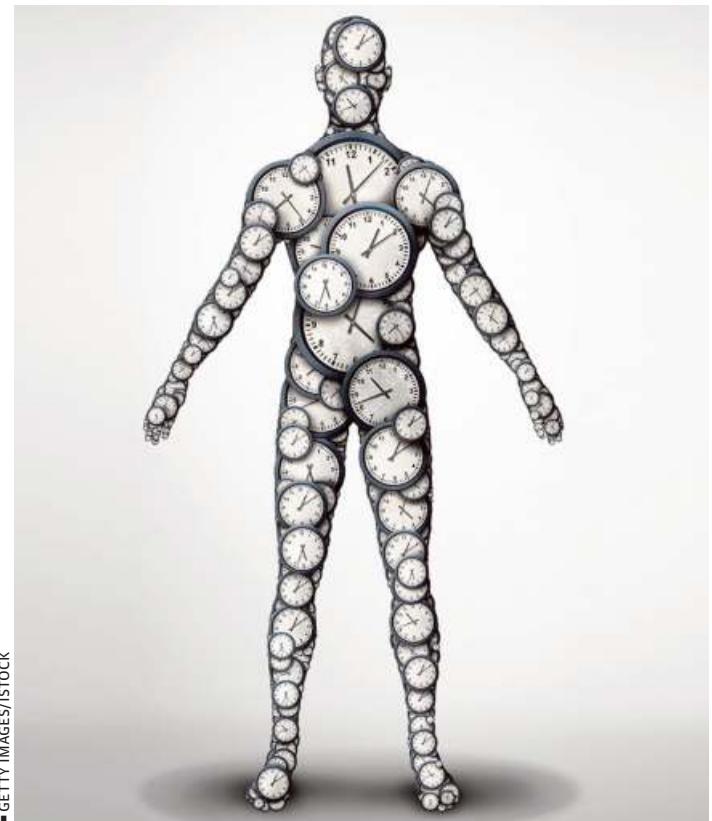
As a patient, to be given a choice, that is an amazing thing and we slowly built trust. Earlier I had low self-esteem, which perhaps stemmed from being neglected as a child. I would seek approval (and happiness) from relationships and activities. Now, I am completely content and happy on my own being. Perhaps it comes from having lost everything (from 2012 to 2014, I lived in poverty, and my four children were taken from India by my ex-husband, with the help of my parents). Or perhaps it comes from mindfulness, or from my discovery of poetry.

By being able to tune into the needs of the body – the body is hungry, tired, sleepy, and responding appropriately – I have been able to still the demons of the mind. I am always at peace, always productive, always creative. I have never been on any medication except for the two times I was incarcerated, once in 2007 and once in 2012. I practise yoga, kung fu, and cycling daily and eat as healthy as I can. I would not wish this level of pain on anyone, but truly in my case, pain has transformed me, and raised my game as a poet and artist. Today, I am fearless.

In this series, we feature first-person accounts of people who have accepted, acknowledged and sought help for their mental health challenges. Visit [Thehindu.com](http://Thehindu.com) for more stories.

WHAT IS IT?

## Circadian Gut Rest



\* GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

SOMA BASU

To understand Circadian Gut Rest (CGR), let's understand Circadian Rhythm (CR). This is the invisible biological clock of our bodies, governed by factors such as hormones, moods, metabolic changes, sleep pattern, the type of food we eat and in what quantity.

Hormonal CR can be controlled with pills: for instance, if you wish to regulate your menstrual cycle. But not the CGR. "You need to give it rest and that is why working in the nights affects your body because you deny the break it requires," says Dr Alagammal. "What is tuned to happen naturally should not be interfered with. Or else it can lead to discomfort and ailments."

This is why nutritionists advise a daily, timely and early breakfast. "After the circadian gut goes into rest for eight hours in the night, if you delay breaking the fast, the CR gets affected and creates an acidic environment, because the digestive system alters, to make adjustments. Synchronise the rhythms of your gut microbiome (the collection of and environment formed by all the microorganisms in the GI tract) with other circadian rhythms such as sleep/wake cycles and food intake patterns," says the doctor.

In this column, we dissect the latest buzzwords in health and wellness

munching on something will help you remain awake and energetic. "Actually you are abusing your gut leading to indigestion," she says.

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POOCH CAFE



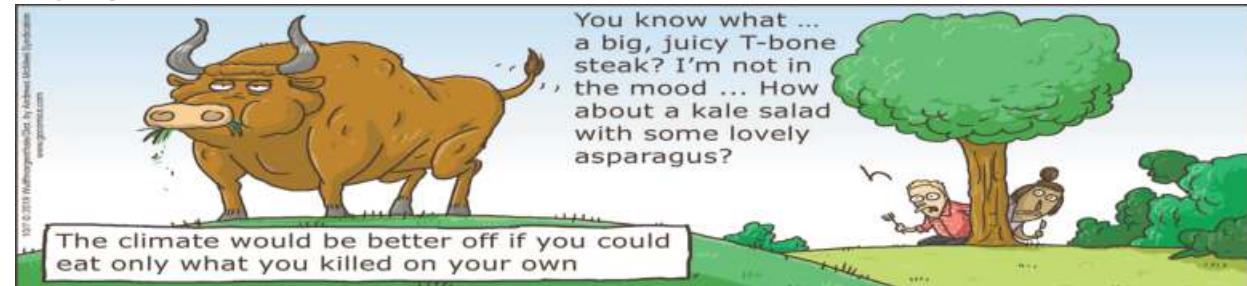
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



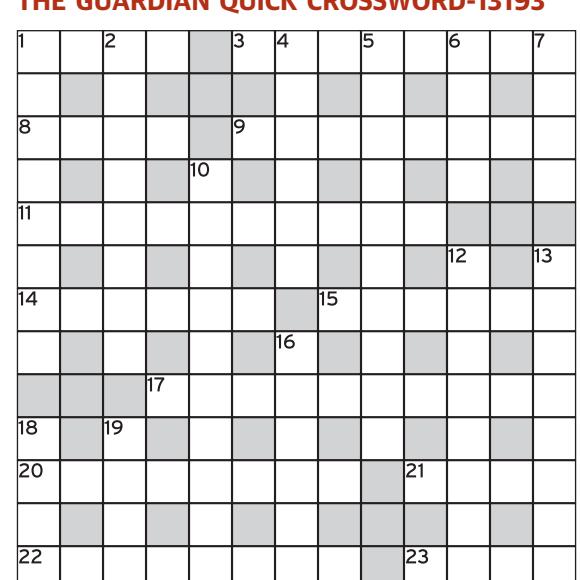
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



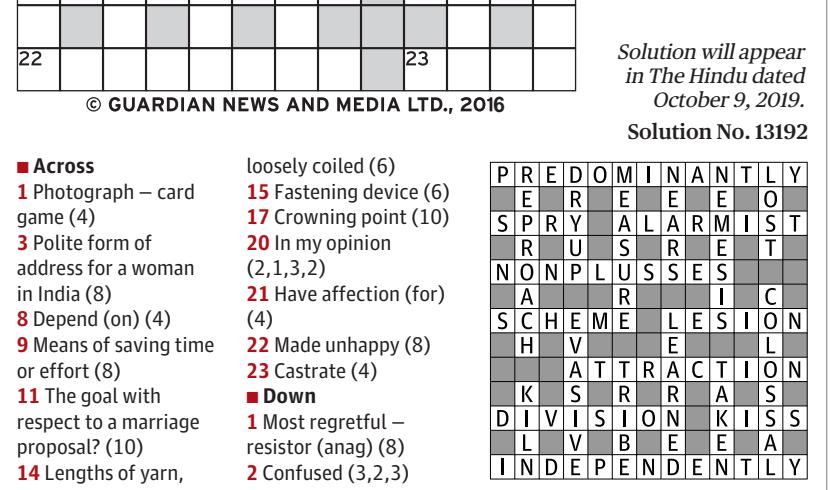
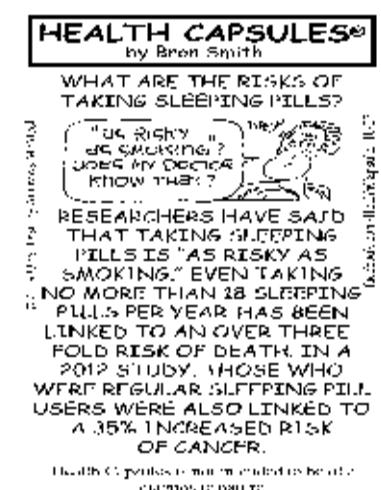
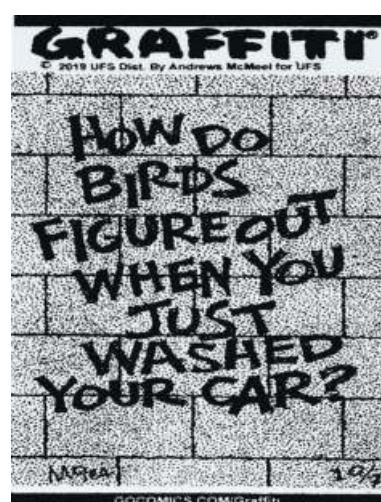
THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13193



4 Culturally-based (6)  
5 Reinforce (10)  
6 Journalistic drudge (for the chop?) (4)  
7 One and the other (4)  
10 Uninjured (2,3,5)  
12 Someone who has abandoned their religion (8)  
13 Frame used for supporting a mattress (8)  
16 Clothing (6)  
18 Singing voice – fish (4)  
19 Tender-hearted (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 9, 2019.

Solution No. 13192



■ Across  
1 Photograph – card game (4)  
3 Polite form of address for a woman in India (8)  
4 Depend (on) (4)  
9 Means of saving time or effort (8)  
11 The goal with respect to a marriage proposal? (10)  
14 Lengths of yarn, (3,2,3)  
15 Fastening device (6)  
17 Crowning point (10)  
20 In my opinion (2,1,3,2)  
21 Have affection (for) (4)  
22 Made unhappy (8)  
23 Castrate (4)  
■ Down  
1 Most regretful – resistor (anag) (8)  
2 Confused (3,2,3)

# Destructive Shami, wily Jadeja send South Africa to its doom

Ashwin becomes joint-fastest to 350 Test wickets; record for most sixes in a match breached



**In disarray:** Quinton de Kock is bowled by Mohammed Shami.



**Rattled:** Shami upsets more than Temba Bavuma's stumps.



**Telling spell:** Jadeja spun a web around the Proteas batsmen. ■ PHOTOS: K.R. DEEPAK

## SA IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR  
VISAKHAPATNAM

He was fast, skiddy and attacked the stumps from a good length. On a surface of uneven bounce, Mohammed Shami was deadly.

Sizzling on a Sunday, Shami ripped open the heart of the South African batting with three wickets – in two bursts – before lunch and then returned to snuff out the resistance from the tail and finish with five Test-winning wickets.

Outplaying South Africa by 203 runs in the first Freedom Test at the ACA-VDCA Stadium here, India took its tally in the World Test championship to 160.

### Perfect support

Complementing Shami was Ravindra Jadeja's left-arm spin of control and subtle variations.

He struck thrice in an over, following up Shami's destructive bowling, and shutting out the contest.

There were several landmarks. Most number of sixes

ever in a Test – 37 – were struck, three on the fifth day.

Off-spinning ace R. Ashwin, who finished with eight scalps, reached his 350th Test wicket, turning the ball in from outside off and defeating Theunis de Bruyn on the cut.

And, India's new Test opener Rohit Sharma was adjudged Man-of-the-Match for his headline-grabbing century-in-each-innings act.

Shami held centrestage though on day five. The crucial aspect of Shami's bowling is the rhythm in his run-up and he steamed in with both grace and venom.

On a surface of uneven bounce, it was hard to play a bowler with pace, deviation and control. Shami's reverse-swing added to the batsmen's challenges.

Temba Bavuma got behind the line but the delivery kept low to rattle the timber. Faf du Plessis, expecting the ball to go with the angle, shouldered arms to a Shami special that pitched outside off and seamed in to rearrange the woodwork.

Shell-shocked du Plessis

certainly was. Shami leapt in joy.

Quinton de Kock, exceptional in the first innings, succumbed to a delivery that straightened to crash into his stumps. A tentative starter, de Kock played from the crease but credit to Shami for changing his angle skilfully to the southpaw and hitting the good length.

South Africa was reeling at 60 for five in the 24th over.

Then, Jadeja, always dangerous on a surface with a few cracks and rough, got in to the act.

Opener, Aiden Markram (39), timing his strokes, lofted a well pitched up delivery only to see Jadeja leap high and pluck a fine one-handed return catch. The length of the ball had invited the miscue.

In the same over, Jadeja struck two more times, with typical left-arm spinner's dismissals. The ball pitched in line and spun away to defeat the bat and struck right-handers, Vernon Philander, he bagged a pair, and Keshav Maharaj, on the back leg, The South African innings had unravelled spectacularly.

Then came the resistance. Debutant Senuram Muthusamy once again batted with composure and technique, firmly getting behind the line of both pace and spin, using his feet and following his unbroken 33 in the first innings with a fighting 49 not out.

The southpaw consumed 108 balls under pressure on a difficult wicket, was assured in defence and essayed some bright strokes too such as a square-cut and a cover-drive off Ashwin. The all-rounder is a genuine find.

Dane Piedt – he added 91 battling runs for the ninth wicket with Muthuswamy – danced down to spin for some weighty shots during his entertaining 56.

But as tea approached, Kohli threw the ball to Shami and the paceman hurried and forced Piedt to play on with a well pitched up delivery.

Soon it was all over. Kohli and his boys celebrated yet another victory.

■ The second Test will be played in Pune from Oct. 10 to 14

## Murali vs Ashwin 350 wktS

	Matches	66
	Innings	106
	Balls	21632
	5-fors	28
	10-fors	7
9y-9d	Time from debut	9y-9d
		7y-33d

Note: Pakistan and Bangladesh are yet to play a Test in the WTC

## World Test Championship (WTC) standings

Team	M	W	L	D	Pts
India	3	3	0	0	160
New Zealand	2	1	1	0	60
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	60
Australia	5	2	2	1	56
England	5	2	2	1	56
West Indies	2	0	2	0	0
South Africa	1	0	1	0	0

Note: Pakistan and Bangladesh are yet to play a Test in the WTC

## Statosphere

1 Ashwin joins Muralitharan in claiming 350 wickets in fewest Tests (66) ■ Fastest to 350 wickets | 66 Muralitharan & Ashwin | 69 Hadlee & Steyn | 70 Lillee | 74 McGrath | 75 Marshall & Herath | Fastest Indians to 350 wickets | Ashwin 66 | Kumble 77 | Harbhajan 83 | Kapil 100

1 Shami is the only bowler to take three five-fors in the second innings since 2018. The earlier instances were: vs SA, Johannesburg, and vs Aus, Perth

2 Shami is the second Indian pace bowler to dismiss four batsmen 'bowled' in a Test innings after Bumrah (vs WI, North Sound, 2019)

10 Number of Tests India has remained unbeaten at home, dating back to March 2017

■ 37 Ind vs SA, Vizag, 2019 | ■ 27 Pak vs Ind, Faisalabad, 2005-06 | ■ 35 Pak vs NZ, Sharjah, 2014-15 | ■ 27 Ban vs NZ, Chattogram, 2013-14

Muralitharan was also the fastest to reach 400 wickets (72nd Test)

## SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS  
502 for seven decl.

SOUTH AFRICA – 1ST INNINGS:  
431.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS  
323 for four decl.

SOUTH AFRICA – 2ND INNINGS  
Aiden Markram c & b Jadeja 39 (74b, 5x4, 1x6), Dean Elgar lbw b Jadeja 2 (16b), Theunis de Bruyn b Ashwin 10 (20b, 2x4), Temba Bavuma b Shami 0 (2b), Faf du Plessis b Shami 13 (26b, 3x4), Quinton de Kock b Shami 0 (2b), Senuram Muthusamy (not out) 49 (10b, 5x4), Vernon Philander lbw b Jadeja 0 (3b), Keshav Maharaj lbw b Jadeja 0 (1b), Dane Piedt b Shami 56 (10b, 9x4, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada c Saha b Shami 18 (19b, 3x4, 1x6); Extras (b-2, lb-2): 4. Total (in 63.5 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS  
1-4 (Elgar, 3.3 overs), 2-19 (de Bruyn, 10.5), 3-20 (Bavuma, 11.3), 4-52 (du Plessis, 21.5), 5-60 (de Kock, 23.1), 6-70 (Markram, 26.1), 7-70 (Philander, 26.4), 8-70 (Maharaj, 26.5), 9-161 (Piedt, 59.1).

INDIA BOWLING  
Ashwin 20-5-44-1, Jadeja 25-6-87-4, Shami 10.5-2-35-5, Ishant 7-2-18-0, Rohit 1-0-3-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Rohit.

India won Test by 203 runs

## Shami is deadly in the fourth innings, says Rohit

du Plessis sees positives in the manner in which South Africa put up a fight

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM

Rohit Sharma believes that on certain fourth-innings pitches Mohammed Shami is even more dangerous than the spinners.

Shami has been very effective in the second innings for India. Since 2018, in 15 second innings, he has picked up 40 wickets at 17.0 (strike rate 32.1).

Rohit said, "He is used to bowling in these conditions. I remember my debut Test in Kolkata in 2013, it was Shami's first Test also. And, on a slow, low-bounce wicket at the Eden Gardens, he ran through the West Indies in the second innings with five wickets.

"Shami is at the stumps and has reverse-swing. It is not easy to bowl reverse, the margin for error is low."

Asked about Wriddhiman Saha's wicketkeeping in the Test, Rohit answered, "It

was a difficult pitch to keep on. The bounce was uneven and sometimes Saha had to put his body on the line. I thought he kept very well."

Rishabh Pant, at the same time, should continue to work hard on his 'keeping, felt Rohit. "Pant has batted very well for India. He is working on his 'keeping. Even in the West Indies, after every session, he would walk up to Saha. Saha loves to guide Pant."

On the criticism he has faced, Rohit, Man-of-the-Match here for centuries in both innings in his first Test as opener, said, "I don't let things bother me. I put a shield around me."

Despite the defeat here, South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis said, "I am proud of the manner we fought back in the first innings. Senior players, Dean Elgar and Quinton de Kock put their hands up. It was a brilliant

response. There is a lot of confidence in the dressing room because of that."

He added, "We brought the game close, but could not convert some half-chances in the Indian second innings. Nearly 400 as a target was a bit too much on this pitch of uneven bounce."

■ **Oh, for Kallis!**

Going forward in the series, du Plessis said the South Africans could consider playing another paceman in the eleven but lamented the lack of pace-bowling all-rounders who could have given the line-up balance. "There is no Jacques Kallis now," he said.

du Plessis was impressed by Senuram Muthusamy's batting under pressure in his first Test. "He was very good, applied himself and put numbers against his name. He can bowl too."



**Wrong call:** Faf du Plessis is completely baffled by this one from Mohammed Shami. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## A skilful, smart operator

S. DINAKAR  
VISAKHAPATNAM

Mohammed Shami is not just a skilful bowler but also smart. Ask India's bowling coach Bharat Arun.

In a chat with *The Hindu* on Sunday, Arun felt Shami's "game awareness and his reading of the conditions and the situation have improved by leaps and bounds."

Arun, who has worked extensively with Shami, said "You can see that from the way he adapts to different pitches and adjusts his length. He now knows on which surface to pitch it up and on what track to bowl the good length."

Shami's explosive bowling here – five for 35 – blew away the Proteas on the final day and was reminiscent of his destructive fourth-innings five for 28 against the same opposition that gave India an away win at the Wanderers in 2018.

Arun said, "On wearing

fourth-innings pitches he is dangerous because he consistently bowls at around 140 kmph, seams the ball, swings it including reversing it, is skiddy and is always on target. He is at the batsman all the time."

He was pleased with Shami's line. "He consistently bowls just outside off – the fourth-stump line – and moves the ball away or brings it in from there. This means he is making the batsman play all the time."

Arun noted, "Greats such as Vivian Richards and Ian Chappell have been very impressed with what Shami brings to the table."

Shami has been used in short bursts so that he can go full throttle even in tough conditions. "He is a high impact bowler," said Arun.

The Shami Express continues to speed ahead leaving behind a trail of shattered stumps.

## Nia Ali and Cheptegei captivate with brilliant efforts on the final day

United States men's 4x100m team gets it right finally, breaks the 'curse'; Jamaica clinches the honours in the women's section



**Surging ahead:** Nia Ali, right, produced a personal best time to win the 100m hurdles ahead of American teammate Kendra Harrison, left, and Jamaica's Danielle Williams. ■ REUTERS

Jamaica's Danielle Williams (12.47).

Joshua Cheptegei won the men's 10,000m in 26m 48.36s, the second-fastest time ever in the championships history. The 23-year-old – silver medallist in 2017 – is the first Ugandan to win the title.

Dalilah Muhammad bagged her second gold medal of the championships as the United States cruised to victory in the 4x400m relay.

**Felix makes it 13**  
The victory also saw Allyson Felix extend her record tally of World Championship gold medals. The 33-year-old American, who is still to win a World or Olympic title. She took silver in 12.46s ahead of

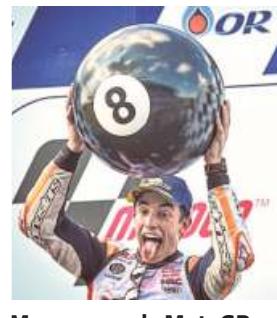
Justin Gatlin celebrated his first relay gold medal as the United States lifted its 4x100m curse with a victory on Saturday. The star-studded quartet of Gatlin, newly-crowned 100m champion Christian Coleman, 200m gold medallist Noah Lyles and Michael Rodgers recorded the second fastest time in history – 37.10s.

**First relay gold</b**

TV PICKS

**Pakistan v Sri Lanka:** 2nd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Marquez seals MotoGP title with Thailand win

BURIRAM  
Marc Marquez sealed his sixth MotoGP World title in Thailand on Sunday after storming to victory in a heart-pounding final corner duel with Fabio Quartararo at the Chang International Circuit. The win in Buriram gives him an insurmountable lead over closest rival Andrea Dovizioso with four races left. Spain's Marquez finished 0.171 seconds ahead of 20-year-old rookie Frenchman Quartararo with another Spaniard Maverick Vinales third. Marquez was handed an inflatable eight-ball to signify the eight overall championships across all classes he has won. AFP



Thiem is champion in Beijing

BEIJING  
Top seed Dominic Thiem recovered from a set down to win the China Open final on Sunday and claim the 15th singles title of his career. The Austrian defeated Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 in Beijing. Thiem, 26, beat former World No. 1 Andy Murray on the way to the title and had also booked his spot in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals. AFP



Osaka subdues Barty in China final

BEIJING  
Naomi Osaka won a second tournament on the spin as she fought back from a set down to defeat World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty in the China Open final on Sunday. The Japanese two-time Grand Slam champion emerged victorious after 110 minutes in chilly Beijing, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. AFP

Deccan Derby to be now run on October 16

HYDERABAD  
The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club have rescheduled the Deccan Derby, which was postponed on October 2 (Wednesday), to October 16 (Wednesday). The list of runners remains the same but fresh declarations will be announced on Monday (Oct. 14). Nine races will be held on the Derby day.

Deepinder downs Parav

CHANDIGARH  
Deepinder Singh Bains subdued Parav Dev Bains 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 in the men's final qualifying round of the Tribune ₹250,000 AITA ranking tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Sunday. The results (final qualifying round): Men: Rishi Reddy bt Mohit Bhardwaj 6-2, 6-2; Neeraj Yashpal bt Amit Baid 6-4, 6-4; Udayvir Singh bt Deepinder Singh Bains 6-3, 6-2; Deepinder Singh Bains bt Parav Dev Garg 6-3 5-7, 6-2; Rudra Kapoor bt Shashikant Rajput 6-1, 6-0; Krishan Hooda bt Rikil Rana 7-6(6), 7-6(6); Alex Solanki bt Mayank Yadav 6-1, 6-1.

Women: Bunty Chongtham bt Pawandeep Kaur 6-2, 6-2; Paavani Paathak bt Tammyee Patnaik 6-3, 6-0; Ashpreet Kaur Bajwa bt Ankita Hoon 6-2, 6-3; Nehal Sahni bt Lagan Bidhan 5-7, 7-6(3), 7-5; Anushka Sharma bt Konika Singh Dhull 7-6(5), 6-4; Radhika Vasudeva bt Akshita Sharma 6-1, 6-1.

# Manchester City ambushed by Wolves

Arsenal moves to third; Abraham, Mount on target for Chelsea; Gladbach a surprise leader

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
MANCHESTER

Manchester City's bid to win a third successive Premier League title suffered a huge setback as the champion crashed to a shock 2-0 defeat against Wolves on Sunday.

Pepe Guardiola's side now trails leader Liverpool by eight points following Adama Traore's two late goals at the Etihad Stadium.

It was second-placed City's second league defeat this term after its surprise loss at Norwich in September.

Arsenal edged up to third as David Luiz's first goal for the club earned a 1-0 win over Bournemouth while Tammy Abraham and Mason Mount celebrated their England call-ups by firing Chelsea to a 4-1 rout of struggling Southampton.

Abraham has nine goals in all competitions for Chelsea this term, underlining why Southgate is keen to get him action in a competitive match to ensure he commits to England.



**Suckerpunch:** Wolves' Adama Traore finishes off a sweeping counter-attack past City goalkeeper Ederson. • AFP

Borussia Monchengladbach moved top of the Bundesliga on Sunday after a double from Patrick Herrmann helped the unfancied outfit take advantage of its Bundesliga rivals faltering with a 5-1 thumping of Augsburg.

Marco Rose's side is in first place for the first time since the 2011-12 season, two points ahead of five teams, including Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig.

Gladbach dominated its lowly opponent and was three goals up after just 13

minutes and 4-0 ahead by half-time.

The results:

**Premier League:** Arsenal 1 (Luiz 9) bt Bournemouth 0; Manchester City 0 lost to Wolves 2 (Traore 80, 90+4); Southampton 1 (Ings 30) lost to Chelsea 4 (Abraham 17, Mount 24, Kante

40, Batshuayi 89).

**La Liga:** Mallorca 2 (Budimir 37, Sevilla 73) bt Espanyol 0; Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 74) bt Athletic Bilbao 0; Valladolid 0 drew with Atletico Madrid 0.

**Bundesliga:** Borussia Monchengladbach 5 (Zakaria 2, Hermann 8, 13, Plea 39, Embolo 83) bt Augsburg 1 (Niederlechner 80); Wolfsburg 1 (Weghorst 69) bt Union Berlin 0.

**Serie A:** Fiorentina 1 (Milenkovic 72) bt Udinese 0; Roma 1 (Cipollini 31-0) drew with Cagliari 1 (Uojo Pedro 26-pen).

Atalanta 3 (Zapata 35, Gomez 40, Gosen 56) bt Lecce 1 (Lucioni 2); Bologna 2 (Krejci 21, Palacio 31) drew with Lazio 2 (Immobile 23, 39).

**Saturday:** Premier League: West Ham 1 (Haller 54) lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Van Aanholt 63-pen, Ayew 87).

**La Liga:** Valencia 2 (Gomez 27, Parejo 83-pen) bt Alaves 1 (Lucas 89); Osasuna 2 (Roncaglia 46, Avila 79) bt Villarreal 1 (Torres 5).

**Serie A:** Verona 2 (Kumbulla 9, Murru 81-0g) bt Sampdoria 0; Genoa 1 (Schone 41) lost to AC Milan 2 (Hernandez 51, Kessie 57-pen).

**Bundesliga:** Schalke 04 1 (Serdar 79) drew with Cologne 1 (Hector 90+1).

## Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

**ELITE: Group B (Vadodara):** 49 in 16 overs (Sandee Sharma seven for 19) lost to Punjab 50 for seven in 15.1 overs (Ajit Chahal four for 32).

**Group C (Jaipur):**

Tamil Nadu 31 for eight in 50 overs (Abhinav Mukund 84, B. Aparajith 87, Dinesh Karthik 40, Washington Sundar 36, Ajay Sarkar three for 51) bt Tripura 128 in 34.3 overs (T. Natarajan three for 22).

**Group A (Bengaluru):**

Andhra v Karnataka, Chhattisgarh v Saurashtra, Goa v Hyderabad

**Group B (Vadodara):** Baroda v Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh v Vidarbha, Maharashtra v Odisha

**Group C (Jaipur):** Bengal v Madhya Pradesh, Bihar v Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat v Railways

**Plate (Dehradun):** Arunachal Pradesh v Uttarakhand, Assam v Manipur, Chandigarh v Puducherry

**Tuesday's matches (9 a.m. start)**

**Group A (Bengaluru):** Chhattisgarh v Kerala, Goa v Mumbai, Jharkhand v Saurashtra

**Group B (Vadodara):** Delhi v Uttar Pradesh, Haryana v Vidarbha, Punjab v Himachal Pradesh

**Plate (Dehradun):** Meghalaya v Mizoram, Nagaland v Uttarakhand, Puducherry v Sikkim

## Nagal loses semifinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU  
CAMPINAS (BRAZIL)

Sumit Nagal lost 6-4, 6-1 to Juan Pablo Ficovich of Argentina in the semifinals of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament here.

Sumit collected 29 ATP points and \$2,510.

In the Challenger in Barcelona, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sergio Martos

Gornes of Spain lost in the final to Simone Bolelli of Italy and David Vega Hernandez of Spain.

The results:

**§ 54,160 Challenger, Campinas, Brazil: Semifinals:** Juan Pablo Ficovich (Arg) bt Sumit Nagal 6-4, 6-1.

**€46,600 Challenger, Barcelona, Spain: Final:** Simone Bolelli (Ita) & David Vega Hernandez (Esp) bt Sergio Martos Gornes (Esp) & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 7-5.

## Sarita bows out

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA)

Former champion L. Sarita Devi (60kg) was on Sunday knocked out of the World women's boxing championships by Russia's Natalia Shadrina on a disappointing day for India. The fourth seed, who got a first-round bye, frittered away a strong start to lose 5-0.

She is also satisfied with the team's preparation for the T20 World Cup, to be held Australia next February-March. "We have the nucleus of that team," she said. "And we are improving."

Improved fielding

She is particularly glad that fielding has come a long away. "There was a time when we used to lose matches because of fielding," she said.

"That no longer is the case. And I believe it would be nice if we could also add a sports psychologist to the support staff."

made her international debut in the series.

"She is already one of my favourite players to watch,"

Sarita was in control in the opening three minutes, logging more punches against a seemingly withdrawn opponent. However, Shadrina fought back in the next two rounds and surprised Sarita to get the judges' nod.

Nandini, on the other hand, was jittery from the word go and struggled to keep pace with a technically superior Schonberger.

The nerves showed all through and Nandini also ended up being warned in the second round for hitting her rival on the back of the head despite repeated cautions.

## NRI Heights runs with a good chance

1. MOKA, 2. LATEST NEWS, 3. MAHIRA

**6. G. SUDHAKAR REDDY ME MORIAL CUP (I,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), (No whip), 4-15: 1. News O' Star (6) Abhay Singh 60.5, 2. Pontius Pillate (9) Gaurav Singh 60.3, Blazer (2) Jitendra Singh 57, 4. Prince Caspian (10) C.P. Bopanna 57, 5. Royal Green (12) Afroz Khan 55.5, 6. N.R.I Heights (3) Koushik 55.5, 7. Stormy (8) Gaurav Singh 55 and 8. Sweet Pilot (3) Kshurash Alad Hamam 50.**

**1. BRITISH EMPRESS, 2. STAR OF TIARA, 3. MR. SHANGHAI**

**4. SURYAPET PLATE (I,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 24 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-15: 1. Tapatio (4) Afroz Khan 60, 2. Tokyo Jam (2) Darshish (9) Garesh 58.5, 4. Palsy Walsy (10) Suraj Narredu 58.5, 5. Suraj Narredu 58.5, 6. Ashka Ashka Ashka (1) Anael 55.5, 7. Indian Dreams (12) Rohit Kumar 55.5, 8. Dancing Doll (9) Kuldeep Singh 53.9, 9. Star Gazer (4) C.P. Bopanna 53, 10. Shandaar (5) B.R. Kumar 52.5, 11. Siyabonga (10) Akshay Kumar 52.5 and 12. Heaven Can Wait (3) Ajeth Kumar 52.**

**1. TOKYO JAM, 2. ONCE MORE, 3. DARSHISH**

**2. ADILABAD PLATE (I,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 25 (Cat. III), 2-10: 1. New Comer (8) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Silver Dollar (2) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. Miss Marvellous (5) Suraj Narredu 50, 3. Sheldon (3) N. Rawal 58.5, 4. Unstoppable (8) Kishan Narredu 58.5, 5. Mind Reader (4) Aarohi (4) B.R. Kumar 51.**

**1. JO MALONE, 2. MISS MARVELOUS, 3. TAPATIO**

**5. KITTY BANK PLATE (I,400m), 1. (I,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II), 3-15: 1. Mahira (7) R.S. Jitendra Singh 59.5, 2. Running Fire (4) (4) 60.5, 2. N.R.I Vision (3) Kuldeep Singh 59.5, 3. Crimson Fire (4) Deepak Singh 58.5, 4. Human Touch (9) A.V. Vikrant 58.5, 5. Marvel Princess (5) Suraj Narredu 57.5, 6. His Excellency (7) Aneel 57, 6. T. J. Malone (7) Akshay Kumar 56.5, 7. Tiger Of The Sea (6) Aneel 56.5, 8. Let It Be (9) Kunal Bunde 56, 9. Golden Faraska (1) Koushik 55.5 and 10. Red River (2) Jitendra Singh 55.5.**

**1. N.R.I HEIGHTS, 2. NEWS O' STAR, 3. LIBERATE**

**7. KITTY BANK PLATE (I,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-45: 1. Mahira (7) R.S. Jitendra Singh 59.5, 2. Baywatch Babe (5) N. Rawal 58.5, 4. Golden Hope (9) A. Vikrant 58.5, 5. All Star General (3) Rohit Kumar 54, 10. Golden Adara (10) G. Naresh 52.5 and 11. Negress Princess (9) B.R. Kumar 52.5.**

**1. JO MALONE, 2. MARVEL PRINCESS, 3. LIBERATE**

**5. KITTY BANK PLATE (I,100m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3-45: 1. Mahira (7) R.S. Jitendra Singh 59.5, 2. Baywatch Babe (5) N. Rawal 58.5, 4. Golden Hope (9) A. Vikrant 58.5, 5. All Star General (3) Rohit Kumar 54, 10. Golden Adara (10) G. Naresh 52.5 and 11. Negress Princess (9) B.R. Kumar 52.5.**

**1. MARVEL PRINCESS, 2. HANDSOM DUO, 3. SMARTY**

**Day's best: TOKYO JAM**

Double: JO MALONE — MARVEL PRINCESS

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 & 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7; Tla: all races.

## Djokovic wins Japan Open

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

# Wolf claims three-stroke victory

Mariaane Skarpnord finishes runner-up

## INDIAN OPEN

ANANT KAUR  
GURUGRAM

Perseverance was the key for Austria's Christine Wolf as she carded three-under 69 and totalled 277 for a three-shot victory in the Hero Women's Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club course here on Sunday.

Wolf's first title after six years on the Ladies European Tour was worth €68,392.

To become a champion

one needs to bury the past blunders and improve upon the errors.

Wolf did exactly that. She stuck to her game plan and focused on attaining the par scores, especially on the dreaded 18th hole which caused her a quadruple bogey on day three and a double bogey last year at this very stage.

"I am very relieved. After whatever happened last year on the 18th hole, I was looking forward to come back here. I did not know what was going to happen.

### Anika fifth

Among the Indians, amateur

"After the turn, I hit close but didn't make any putts for birdies. I am happy with a par on the final hole despite hitting a bunker on it," the first time titlist told *The Hindu*.

Tied third overnight, Norway's Mariaane Skarpnord returned a 70 to finish runner-up. England's Meghan McLaren finished third a stroke behind while Australia's Whitney Hillier carded a par round to end fourth.

"I had a good group (with Sweden's Emma Nilsson and Manon De Roey of Belgium) today and I enjoyed playing with them. That helped me play well too."

Anika Varma finished fifth at 285. Sixth was Tvesa Malik (72), the highest ranked home-grown professional at 287.

Interestingly, this edition saw 10 Indians, including four amateurs, making the cut.

The 15-year-old Anika said: "As soon as I hit my first shot I felt fine.

"I had a good group (with Sweden's Emma Nilsson and Manon De Roey of Belgium) today and I enjoyed playing with them. That helped me play well too."

Tvesa, richer by €14,438, was pleased with the way she handled the pressure.

"I've learnt a lot this year and my game has progressed. I'm happy with the way I have been playing but there's still a long way to go."

### The final scores:

**277** Christine Wolf (Aut) (73, 68, 67, 69); **280** Marianne Skarpnord (Nor) (68, 71, 71, 70).

**281** Meghan McLaren (Eng) (67, 73, 69, 72); **282** Whitney Hillier (Aus) (67, 71, 72, 72).

**285** Anika Varma (Ind) (76, 72, 67, 70); **287** Tvesa Malik (Ind) (72, 72, 71, 72).



**Cup of joy:** It was Christine Wolf's first title after six years on the Ladies European Tour.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Hussamuddin moves up

## NATL. BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI  
BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

After overcoming a minor spell of depression, Mohammed Hussamuddin is striving to get back to his best.

On Sunday, the 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist warded off a strong challenge from Maharashtra's Shashikant Yadav to score a 5-0 victory and move into the 57kg pre-quarterfinal of the National boxing championships here.

Hussamuddin combined body and head shots to counterattack Yadav, who was a National camper.

Yadav also played the waiting game and executed right punches well, but the Services man relied on his movement to get out of his opponent's grasp.

"Since it was my first bout, my body took some time to open up. I am working on my close game. I used to get stuck within the opponent's reach. I am improv-



**Back on track:** Mohammed Hussamuddin combined body and head shots to counterattack Shashikant Yadav. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

ing. Also, I am in a better frame of mind after dealing with some negative thoughts due to a shoulder injury and finger infection earlier this year," said Hussamuddin.

**Tough competition**  
The Hyderabad-based boxer said he needed to work harder to stay in the race for a berth in the Olympic qualifier in the tough 57kg weight, which had top boxers like

Kavinder Singh Bisht, Gaurav Solanki, Gaurav Bidhuri and Sachin Siwach.

"My weight has so many strong boxers.

I need to win the gold medal here to be eligible for Olympics' qualifier trials, then raise my game further to beat others," said Hussamuddin.

Promising Haryana pugilist Pawan Kumar pipped Chandra Tamang from Kar-

nataka 5-0 in a testing 69kg bout."Even as Tamang delivered strong blows and rushed in to attack constantly, Pawan stood valiantly and tried to minimise the damage.

The Haryana lad displayed a variety of punches to inflict two standing counts on Tamang before securing victory.

**Other important results (preliminary rounds):** **57kg:** Roshan Sain (Raj) bt Ashish Kumar (HP) 4-1; Michael Savio Dominic (Tel) bt Harjeet Singh (AIP) 5-0; Sachin Siwach (RSPB) bt Prahlad Panda (Goa) RSC-R3; P. Appala-raju (AP) bt Jobson Singh (Man) 5-0.

**60kg:** Aadu Mili (Aru) bt Fahijas Rahman (Ker) 3-2; Durga Rao (SSCB) bt Bhanu Prakash (AP) 5-0; Sunil Chauhan (UP) bt Prabhat Dwivedi (MP) 4-1.

**69kg:** Ayaan Parihar (HP) bt Abhishek (Del) 3-2; Sara Sai (Tel) bt K. Sanayana Singh (Man) 5-0; Dinesh Dagar (RSPB) bt Vinod Bhardwaj (JK) 5-0; Naveen Boora (SSCB) bt Biru Taro (Aru) 5-0.

**75kg:** Vanhlimpua (SSCB) bt A. Prashant (Kar) ABD-R1; Bangaru Manish (AP) bt Virender Singh (Utk) 4-0.

# Ladakh gets on the boxing map

Salim Malik is first boxer from UT at the Nationals

Y.B. SARANGI  
BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

Salim Malik may have lost his 63kg first round bout to Jharkhand's Ravi Soy, but he was proud to have made history by becoming the first boxer from Ladakh to represent the Union Territory at the National boxing championships.

Following the Union Government's decision to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs, boxing enthusiasts in Ladakh swung into action to put in place the Ladakh Amateur Boxing Association (LABA).

However, completing the formalities, to become an affiliated unit of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), was not immediately possible. However, LABA officials tried their best and were rewarded when the federation allowed them to field boxers under the



**Pioneers:** Boxers and support staff of BFI-Ladakh at the National boxing championships.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

name BFI-Ladakh.

"It doesn't matter whether we have affiliation. The biggest satisfaction is our boxers are getting to represent Ladakh. This will spur the growth of the sport in the UT," LABA secretary Tenzing Chogyal told *The Hindu*.

It was a dream come true for Chogyal, a National-level referee and judge from Arunachal Pradesh,

and head coach Ghulam Mustafa. "I was born and brought up in Arunachal, but I always had this desire of seeing the place of my origin – Ladakh – shine. Perhaps, this is the first time Ladakh is competing as a unit in any sport at the National level," Chogyal said.

The Ladakh team fielded five boxers – in 49kg, 57kg, 60kg, 63kg and 69kg. Three

of them are students, one works part-time in a bank and another is a tourist guide.

"Till now, boxing was a casual sport. Now, we have to work seriously. For us, everybody's – from association president to the boxers – involvement is necessary. If we work with determination, we can make a mark," said Chogyal.

# After athletics run, Qatar faces rocky road to 2022 WC

## GENERAL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA

Despite triumphs on the track, Qatar has come under fire for its hosting of the World athletics championships with questions raised over Doha's ability to deliver the football World Cup successfully in three years' time.

Perhaps the most stinging off-track criticism of the 10-day event was sparked by the near-empty stadium during the opening days, raising fears for attendances in 2022.

"It's a classic mega-event failing, believing that 'if you build it, fans will come,'" said Simon Chadwick, professor of sports enterprise at Britain's Salford University.

Crowds at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the 2004 Games in Athens also failed to meet organisers' expectations despite ambitious stadium construction, he noted.

International Association of Athletics Federations chief Sebastian Coe has come under fire for the dismal crowds that turned out in Doha to watch blue-ribbon events, including the men's and women's 100 metres.

"The crowd is an easier subject to talk about rather than some of the more insightful stuff around the events," said Coe, who at-

tacked what he viewed as negative media coverage.

Spectator numbers improved as the week wore on after at least one large State-funded organisation offered staff free tickets to the Khalifa International Stadium.

### Judged harshly

Despite Western diplomats warning Qatar would be "judged harshly" for missteps during athletics, Chadwick said Doha would be unfazed by criticism of meagre crowds.

The country instead sees the Championships and World Cup as a means of bolstering security, he said. "Even if nobody turned up to watch the athletics, it doesn't matter. Qatar has mitigated the threats it faces by making itself visible, relevant and important," said Chadwick.

Qatar is embroiled in a bitter two-year dispute with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates which accuse Doha of backing Iran. They have cut direct transport links, closed airspace to Qatari aircraft and restricted their citizens from visiting the country.

By hosting such events, Qatar "has a degree of protection against some of the threats," Chadwick said, adding that the 2015 World handball championship and the 2016 cycling Road World Championships were also poorly attended.

FIFA would now seek clar-

ity about Doha's ticketing strategy following the sight of a near-empty stadium on some days at the athletics, he added.

The Qatar World Cup organisers declined to comment on the ticketing challenges at the athletics event, but sought to address fears around the World Cup, including alcohol prices in the conservative Gulf monarchy.

**Sweltering conditions**  
Another recurring issue was the heat in the road races, with some competitors berating organisers for the sweltering temperatures and humidity during the marathons and race walks that were held outside the air-conditioned stadium.

But World Cup organisers insisted to visiting media that 2022 will not be dogged by high temperatures as it will be staged in the winter months and played in air-conditioned stadiums.

The athletics fans faced grim traffic jams across Doha with many key roads and junctions undergoing construction, although competitors and VIPs received police escorts.

Pressure is also mounting on the authorities to open all 37 metro stations, of which only 13 are currently operational, by the promised New Year deadline.

Chadwick said Qatar was "skating on thin ice" following the challenges of the World Championships.

# Dubey — providing the magic touch

Plays key role in Poonacha, Sowjanya winning titles

## NATL. TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Professional tennis players travel with at least a trainer, if they cannot afford a coach. The value of a trainer was emphasised once again during the Fenesta National tennis championship, as physio Anand Dubey worked magic with eventual champions Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavissetti.

While Poonacha was toying with the idea of withdrawing owing to a lower-back strain, Sowjanya was struggling with a sprained neck. "Coach M. Balu had given him (Poonacha) my number three days before the tournament as he was unable to even stand, owing to the back strain," recalled Anand.

Niki decided to give it a shot, and got on with the game with a late start on Tuesday. Similar was the case with Sowjanya.

Both kept getting better with each day to the extent that Sowjanya won the singles and doubles titles.

Niki won the singles title, but had to concede the doubles final, as his partner S.D. Prajwal Dev had to rush



**Job well done!** Anand Dubey with Niki Poonacha and Sowjanya Bavissetti. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

home owing to a bereavement in the family.

"I remember, Isha Lakhani also went through a similar situation before she won one of her many titles in 2007," said Anand, who attended to the players every morning.

The 43-year-old Anand has travelled as trainer for Sania Mirza. He has also travelled with Divij Sharan to the French Open and Wimbledon.

The players thank Anand from the bottom of their heart, as Poonacha and Sowjanya did during their presentation speech.

Anand has attended a certification course with strength and conditioning coach Pat Etcheberry, who

# Late double bogey pushes Sandhu to second

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Ajeetesh Sandhu.** ■ PTI

Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu had to be satisfied with a tied-second place after he blew his chances with a late double bogey in the final round of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters here on Sunday.

Thailand's Suradit Yongcharoenchai, who began the day one shot behind the leaders – Ajeetesh Sandhu of India and Philippines' Miguel Tabuena – held his nerve in a tight finish with an even par back nine to card 70 and held out for his career's biggest prize cheque.

For Suradit, it was a breakthrough on the Asian Tour where he made his debut as a 17-year-old in 2015.

Suradit carded 70, while Sandhu and Tabuena shot 72 each.

Adilson Da Silva fired 68 to jump to tied-second.

But a costly double on 16th ended his hopes and the best he could get was tied-second following a 18th hole birdie.

Sandhu did not get his putts to fall and turned in even par with one birdie and one bogey and then he added a second birdie on 13th to get to 10-under.

Sandhu shot the best round on Sunday with a 67 and jumped up to tied-fifth.

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